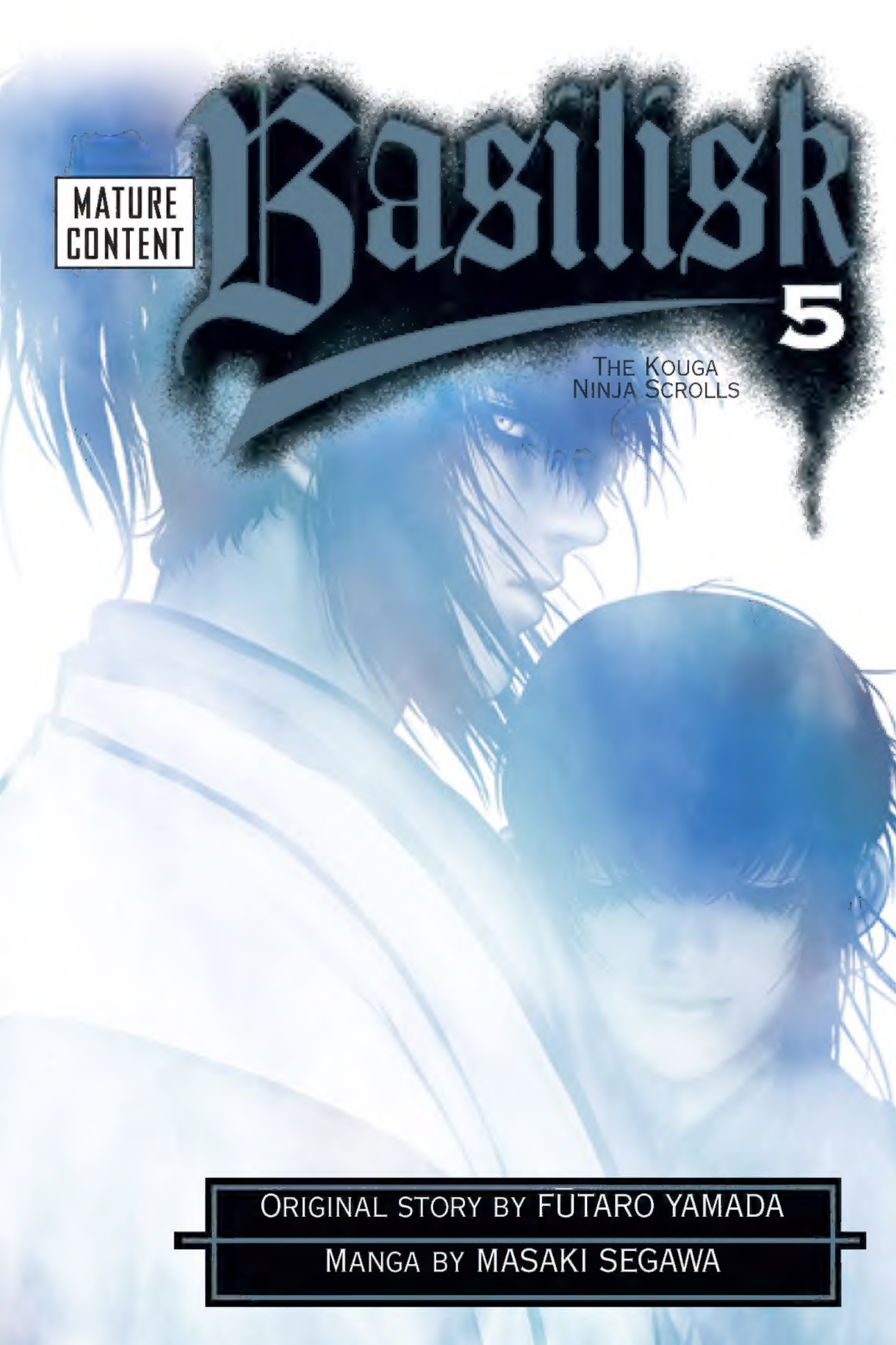
MATURE CONTENT
Basilisk
5
THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS
ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA
MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

Basilisk

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA

BASED ON THE KODANSHA NOVEL *THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS*

MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY DAVID URY

LETTERED BY FOLTZ DESIGN

5

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THE TEN COMBATANTS
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DANJOU KOUGA
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GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

THE TEN COMBATANTS
OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

KILL NUMBER NUMBER 27
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KILL NUMBER NUMBER 30
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KILL NUMBER NUMBER 31
[2 VS 2 (PART 2)]

KILL NUMBER NUMBER 32
[2 VS 2 (PART 3)]

KILL NUMBER NUMBER 33
[1 VS 2]

THE FINAL KILL
[1 VS 1]

Basilisk 5

THE STORY SO FAR...

THE IGA AND KOUGA CLANS FIND THEMSELVES CAUGHT UP IN A POLITICAL PLOT TO DETERMINE THE NEXT TOKUGAWA SHOGUN. TEN NINJA FROM EACH CLAN MUST FIGHT AGAINST EACH OTHER IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH. STAR-CROSSED LOVERS OBORO OF IGA AND GENNOSUKE OF KOUGA ARE FORCED INTO THE FIGHT AGAINST THEIR WILL. AFTER MUCH BLOOD AND VENGEANCE, ONLY THREE NINJA REMAIN ON EACH SIDE. WITH BOTH GENNOSUKE'S AND OBORO'S EYES SEALED SHUT, THE BATTLES BETWEEN TENZEN YAKUSHIJI, AKEGINU, SAEMON KISARAGI, AND KAGEROU MATTER ALL THE MORE. THE CONFLICT BECOMES EVEN MORE COMPLICATED WHEN TAKECHIYO'S GODMOTHER OFUKU GETS INVOLVED. THE FINAL MOMENTS IN THIS BLOODY BATTLE LIE AHEAD. WHO WILL SURVIVE?

MANGA BY
MASAKI SEGAWA

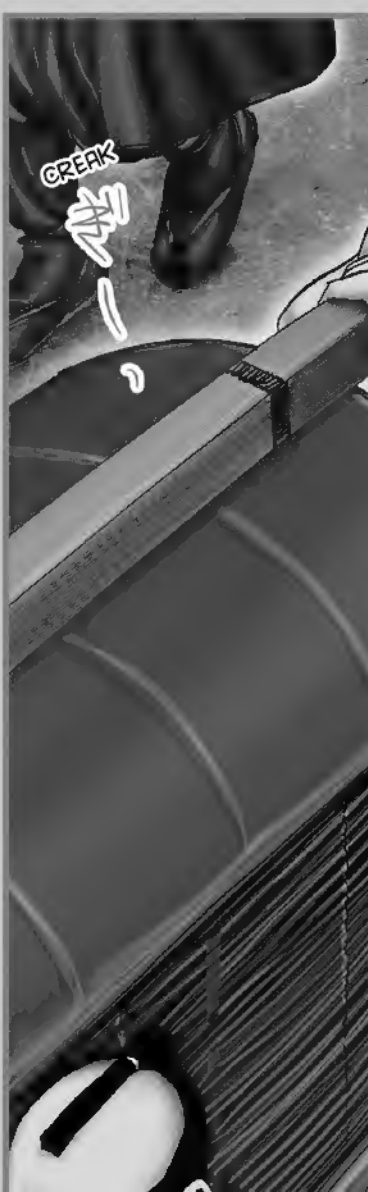
ORIGINAL STORY BY
FŪTARO YAMADA

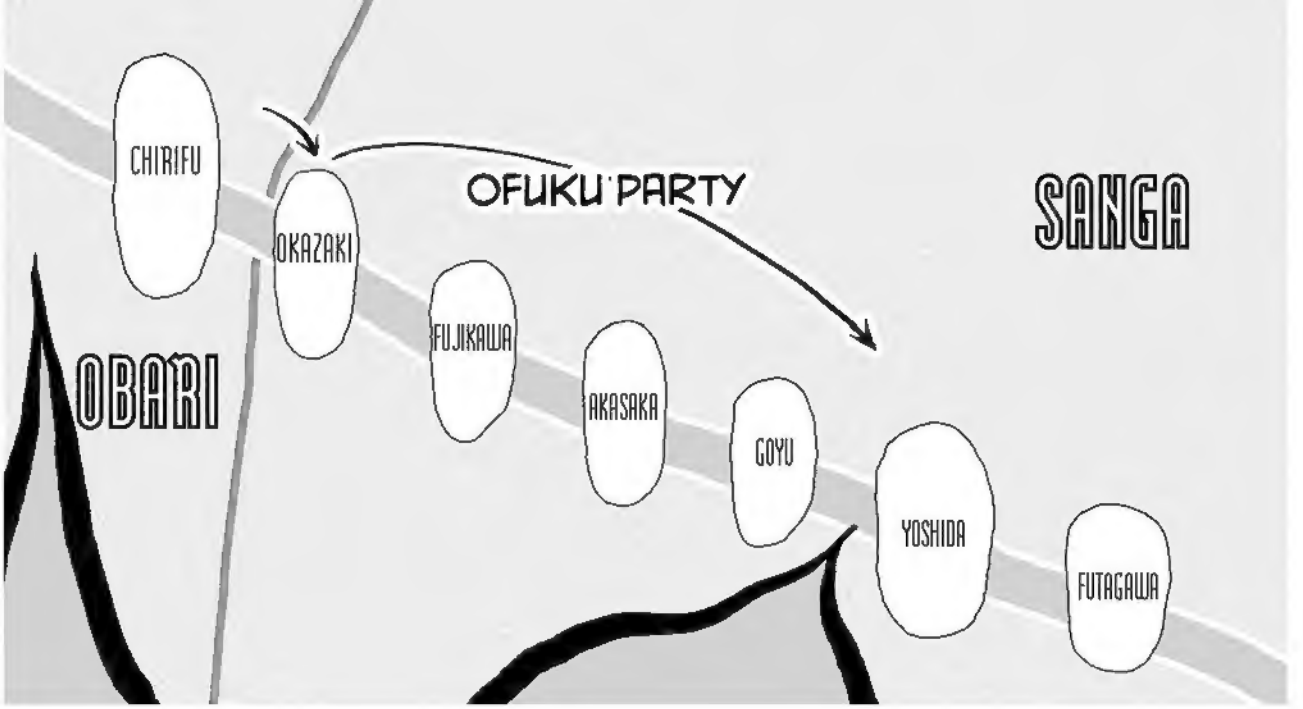
BASED ON THE KODANSHA NOVEL
THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS

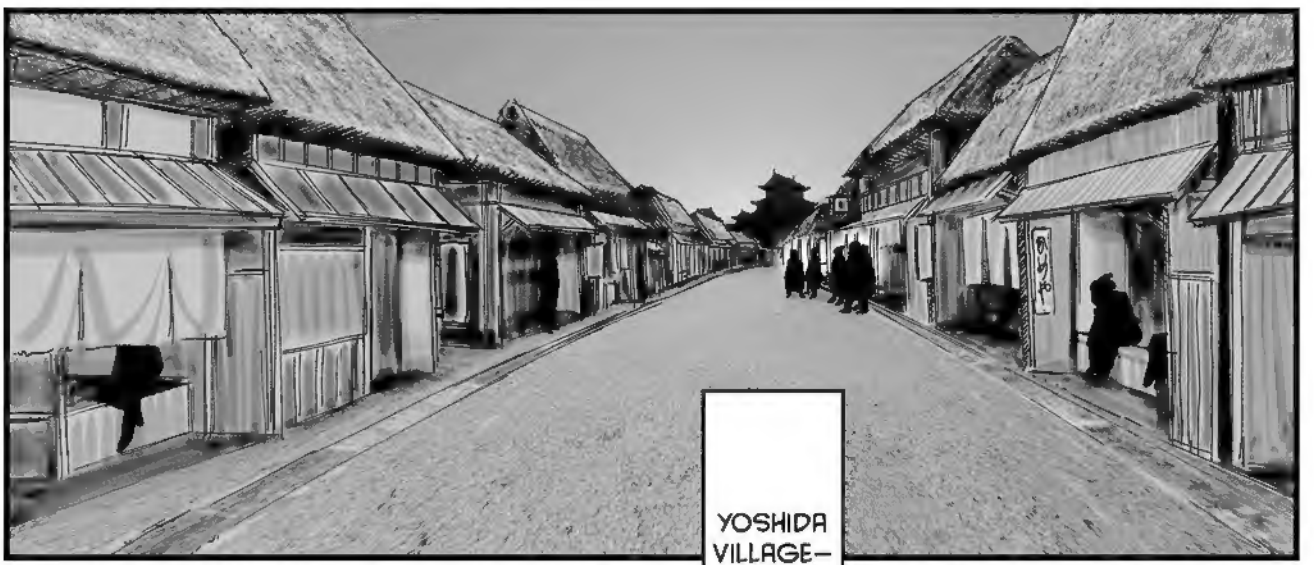
Basilisk
THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS

FLAP

CREAK
CREAK


CREAK





YOSHIDA VILLAGE— EVENING

.....
SAEMON
KISARAGI
[KOUGA]
STEP
FLAP
FLAP
?

STEP
HEY, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
STEP
STEP

I DON'T THINK SO!
TO THE INN...

HMM...

THIS EVENING...
...A VERY IMPORTANT ARISTOCRAT WILL BE STAYING HERE.
FIND ANOTHER INN!

FLAP
FLAP

THAT'S NO CONCERN OF YOURS!
SILENCE!
WHO IS THIS ARISTOCRAT YOU SPEAK OF?
CRACK
GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!
STEP
GO ON!
GYAH!

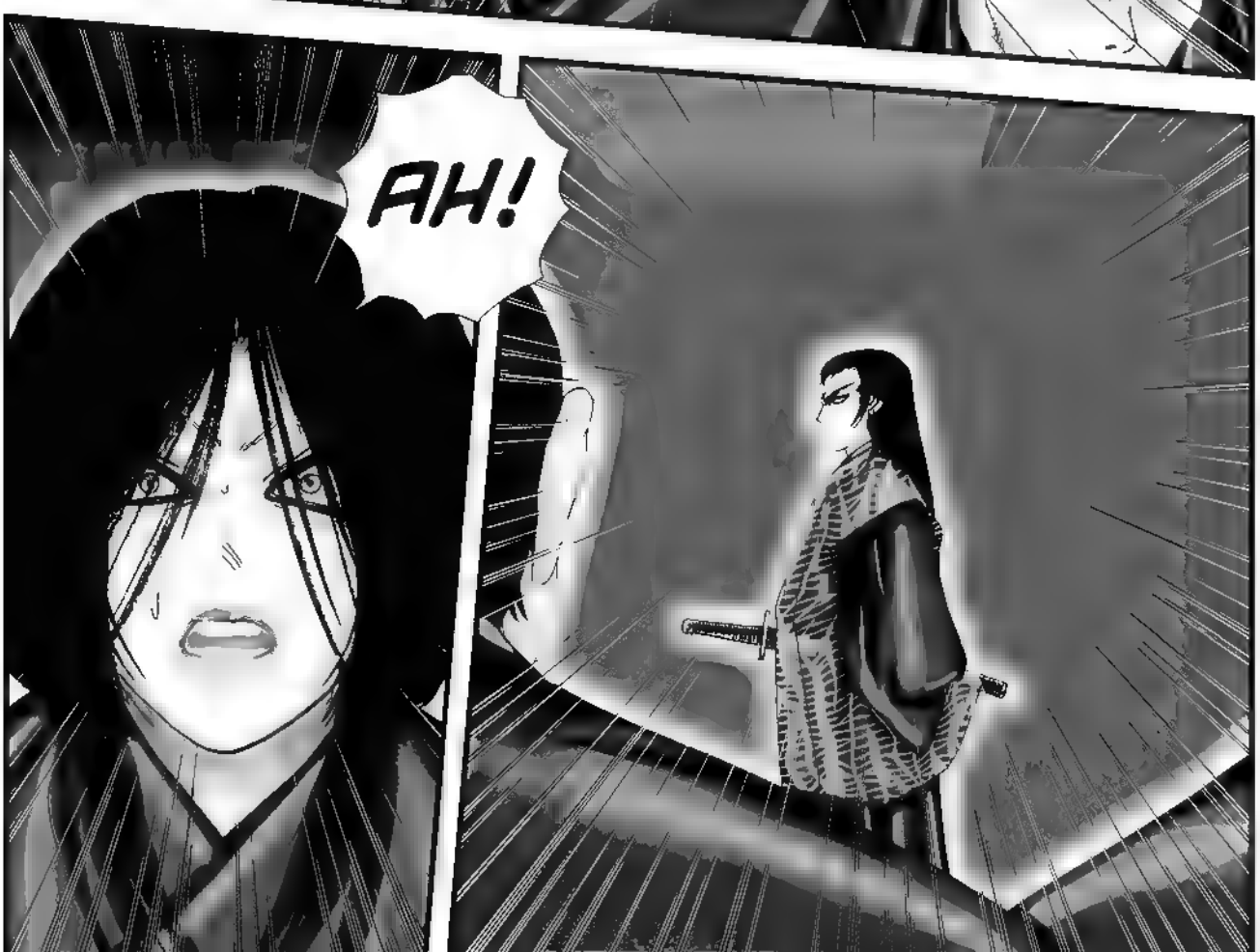
AHHHH...
AH...
AHH...
AHH...
BYONG
BYONG
!?
STEP
STEP
STEP
Y-
YOU-

WHOOSH
HYA!
BASTARD!
B-
THWACK
CRACK
GYAA!
GWAH!

AH...
.....
UNGH...
AGH...
B-
BASTARD-
AH...
U-
UGH...
THUD

!?
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.
HEY, HEY!
GET OUT HERE!
!?

WHOOSH
!?
WHOOSH


AH!

TE—
TENZEN-DONO!
AKEGINU
[IGA]
WHOOSH
NO, HOLD ON!
STOP!

STEP
HE'S ONE OF US!
HE'S ONE OF THE IGA CLAN!
HRMPH
.....
GRIN

WH-WHAT?
HE'S ON OUR SIDE...
WHY DIDN'T YOU...
...SAY SOME-THING?

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, TENZEN-DONO.
I DID TELL THEM THAT WE WERE...
...EXPECTING OTHERS, BUT...

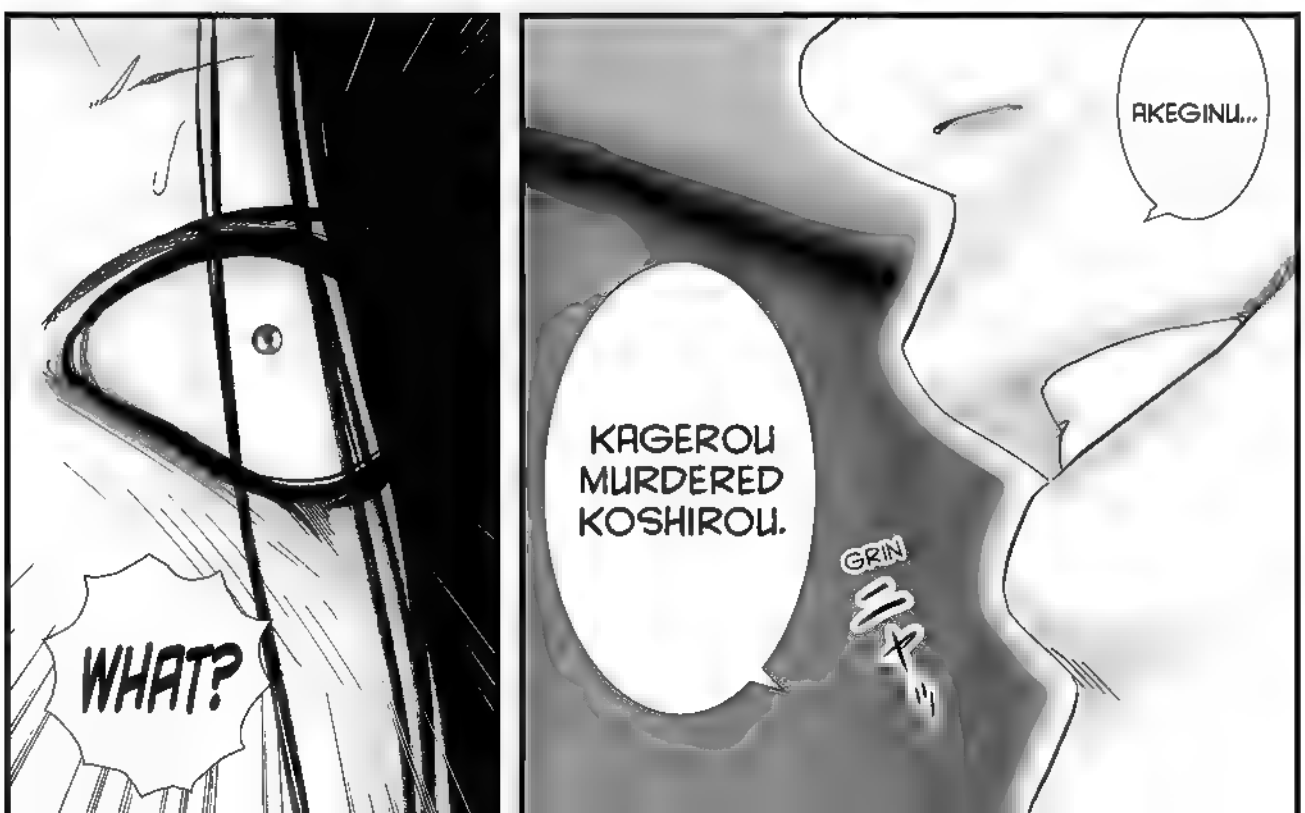
I SAW THE HAWK HOVERING OVER THE INN, SO I KNEW YOU WERE HERE.
WHO THE HELL ARE THESE FOOLS, AKEGINU?
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
.....

WHAT HAPPENED TO OBORO-SAMA?
SHE'S FINE.
THESE ARE OFUKU-SAMA'S GUARDS. SHE IS...
...GOD-MOTHER TO THE SHOGUN'S SON TAKECHIYO-SAMA.
SHE CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
TENZEN-DONO...WILL YOU PLEASE MEET WITH OFUKU-SAMA?
.....
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW.
NO.

I FOUND KAGEROU OF THE KOUGA CLAN.
I FOUND HER.
THIS IS SOME-THING ONLY YOU CAN HANDLE.
COME WITH ME, AKEGINU.
SHE'S HERE, IN THE EAST SIDE OF YOSHIDA VILLAGE.
I FOUND HER ON TOP OF THE IMURE BRIDGE.
KAGEROU?
!?
WE'LL GO TOO...
I-IF IT'S A KOUGA NINJA—

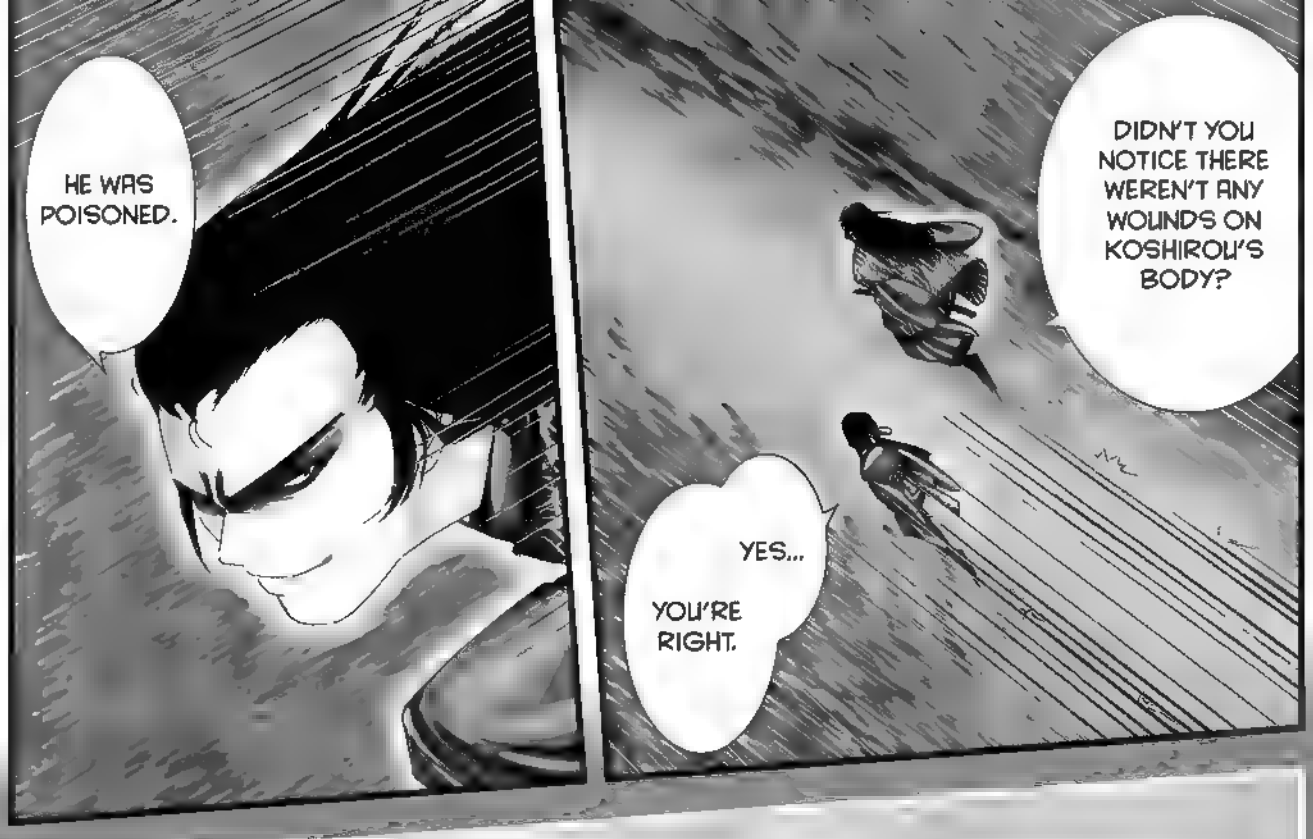
YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR THEM.
LISTEN, I DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL YOU ARE, BUT...
YOU JUST LEAVE THESE KOUGA BASTARDS TO US.
.....

STARE
じろり
BESIDES...
WE MUST PROTECT THE IGA NAME. WE'LL DEAL WITH KAGEROU OURSELVES.
.....


AKEGINU...
KAGEROU MURDERED KOSHIROU.
GRIN
ニヤ
WHAT?

...AND THAT AKEGINU HAD TO LEAVE WITH HIM REGARDING AN URGENT MATTER.
TELL HER THAT TENZEN YAKUSHIJI HAS ARRIVED...
PLEASE GIVE THIS MESSAGE TO OBORO-SAMA!
HYAKUYA
.....
.....

KOSHIROU-DONO WAS KILLED BY KAGEROU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
YOU SAW....
...KOSHIROU'S CORPSE AT KOMABANO, DIDN'T YOU?
I DID.
...BESIDE THE CORPSE OF KOUGA'S HYOUMA MUROGA.
I THOUGHT THEY DIED WHILE FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
NO!
TRUE, IT WAS KOSHIROU WHO KILLED HYOUMA, BUT...
HYOUMA DID NOT KILL KOSHIROU!
IT WAS KAGEROU!



APPARENTLY, WHEN KAGEROU...

...MINGLES WITH A MAN...

HER BREATH TURNS TO POISON.

SHE'S A DEADLY OPPONENT...

...FOR ANY MAN TO FACE....

...WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY...

I REQUIRE THE PRESENCE...

...OF A WOMAN...

...LIKE YOURSELF.

THANK YOU...
...FOR ASKING ME TO COME, TENZEN-DONO.
GENNOSUKE AND SAEMON MANAGED TO GET AWAY FROM US AT KOMABANO, BUT...
I CAUGHT SIGHT OF KAGEROU AND STAYED ON HER TAIL.
ON THE WAY, I HAPPENED TO SEE OBORO-SAMA'S HAWK.
THAT'S HOW I KNEW YOU WERE HERE. ANYWAY, WE NEED TO DEAL WITH KAGEROU RIGHT NOW.
SO WHERE IS SHE?

I'LL HANDLE THOSE TWO.
YOU TAKE CARE OF KAGEROU.
SHE'S STANDING ATOP THE IMURE BRIDGE AT THE EAST END OF THE VILLAGE. LOOKS LIKE SHE'S WAITING FOR SOMEONE...
...PROBABLY GENNOSUKE OR SAEMON.

KAGEROU IS...
...AS GOOD AS DEAD!
I WILL, TENZEN-DONO.

HEY...
...

I'M LOOKING FOR TWO WOMEN, OBORO AND AKEGINU. DO YOU KNOW IF THEY'RE STAYING HERE?
I NOTICED OUR HAWK FLYING ABOVE THE INN.
TENZEN YAKUSHIJ
[IGA]

HYAKUYA
.....
WH-WHAT?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?

...AND AT THE SAME TIME, TRYING TO DESTROY THE KOUGA CLAN?
TAKECHIYO-SAMA'S GOD-MOTHER WAS PROTECTING YOU UNDER HER NAME...
SO THEN...

FOOL!
WE CANNOT DEPEND ON HELP FROM STRANGERS TO DEFEAT THE KOUGA CLAN.
THAT WOULD SOIL...
...THE HONOR OF THE IGA NAME!

DO YOU THINK...
...WE MADE A MISTAKE, TENZEN-DONO?

LISTEN CAREFULLY, AKEGINU.
THAT MIGHT ALLOW THE TAKECHIYO-SECT TO WIN THIS BATTLE...
...AND ASSUME THE THRONE.
BUT!
NO!
EVEN TAKECHIYO HIMSELF WILL LOOK DOWN ON US FROM HIS SHOGUN THRONE!
THAT WON'T MEAN VICTORY FOR THE IGA.
I COULD CARE LESS...
...WHICH OF THE TWO BROTHERS BECOMES THE NEXT SHOGUN...
IT HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH US!
LISTEN, AKEGINU...
ISN'T DESTROYING THE KOUGA CLAN...
...THE TRUE REASON WE WERE PUT UPON THIS EARTH?

THAT'S HOW I'VE FELT ALL ALONG.
TE-TENZEN-DONO!
THAT—
THOSE KOUGA BASTARDS WILL DIE BY MY HAND!
I WANT TO SEND KAGEROU TO THE GRAVE MYSELF!
.....
BUT...
I JUST WANT THE BLIND OBORO-SAMA TO...
SKID

TENZEN-DONO?
?
UH...?
SORRY...
CONTINUE...
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING ABOUT...
...THE *BLIND* OBORO-SAMA?

I JUST WANT OBORO-SAMA TO...
MAKE IT TO SUNPU SAFELY.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON...
...THAT I COOPERATED WITH OFUKU-SAMA.

I UNDER-STAND, AKEGINU.

IMURE BRIDGE

LET'S GO, AKEGINU.
OKAY.

KAGEROU
[KOUGA]

STILL WAITING...
SHWINK
...FOR GENNOSUKE, KAGEROU?

SCHWING

YOU'RE MINE!

FWAH

.....

ACTUALLY, AKEGINU...

END OF KILL NUMBER 27

組十人衆

鵜殿長持

伊賀組十人衆秘巻

忍術五十三次

乱破五十三次

忍術五十三次

乱破五十三次

ACTUALLY, AKEGINU...
IT'S YOU I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
KAGEROU!
WHOOSH

...KOSHIROU!

THIS IS FOR...

SCHWING

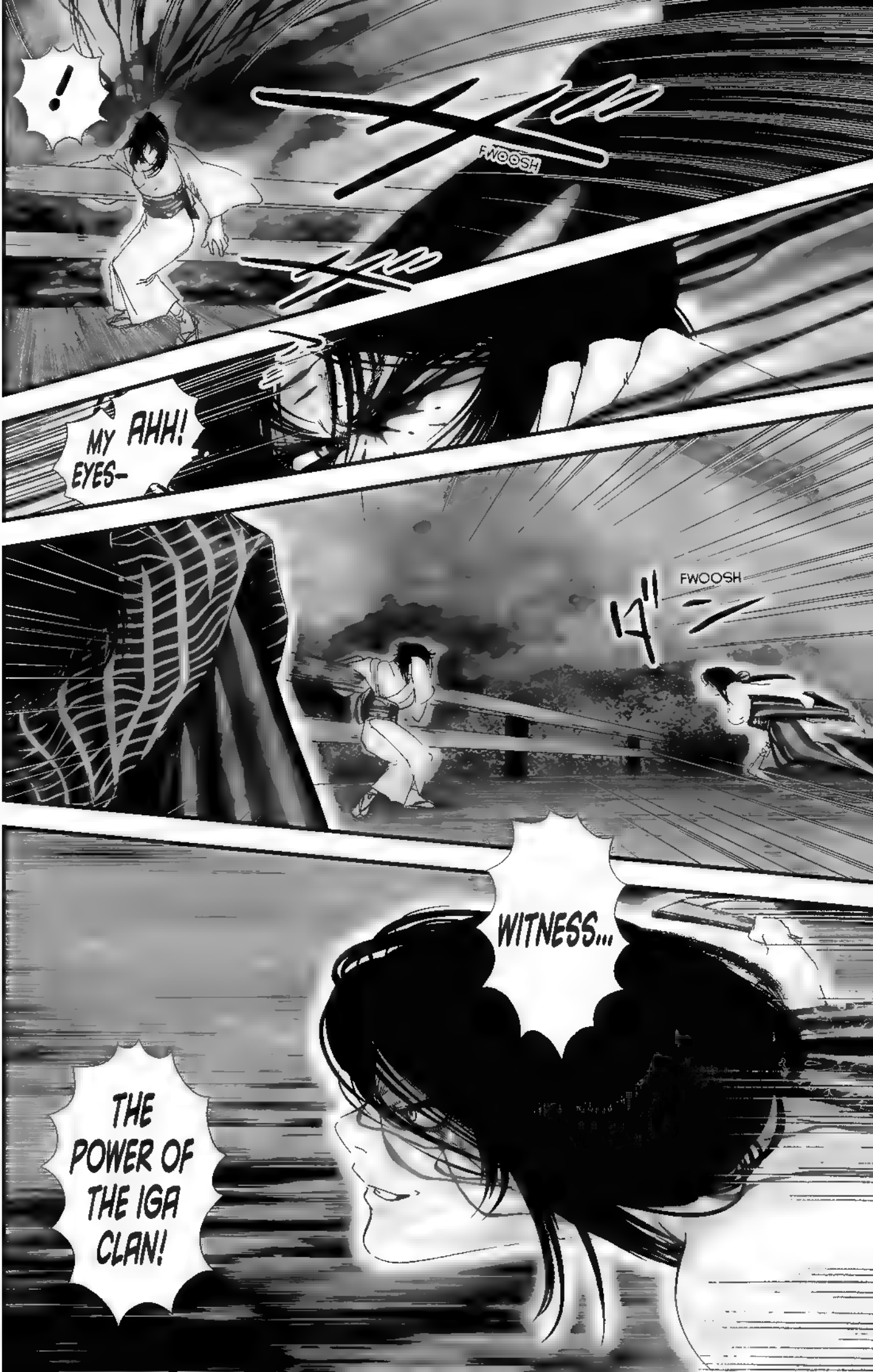
SHI-

KILL NUMBER 28

[3 VS 3 (PART 4)]

FWASH
SCHWIK
SCHWIK
FWICKA
SCHWIK
SHIT-
TATUMP
CHING

FWAP
YANK
BUOOOH
AAAHH!


!
FWOOSH
MY EYES-
AHH!
FWOOSH
WITNESS...
THE POWER OF THE IGA CLAN!

KAGEROU!
DIE!
THWACK
!?

WHOOSH

TENZEN?

I'M AFRAID HE'S DEAD.

WHA—?

WHOOSH

TE-

TENZEN-DONO!

SCHTICK
UNGH
GURGLE

SOON OBORO WILL BE DEAD, TOO.
YOU CAN WAIT FOR HER...
...IN HELL!
THUNK
WHACK
SHWIP

SPLASH

GOOD WORK LURING HER OVER HERE...

...SAEMON-DONO.

.....

WELL...

WHO COULD RESIST THIS FACE?

I AM TRULY THANKFUL, SAEMON-DONO.

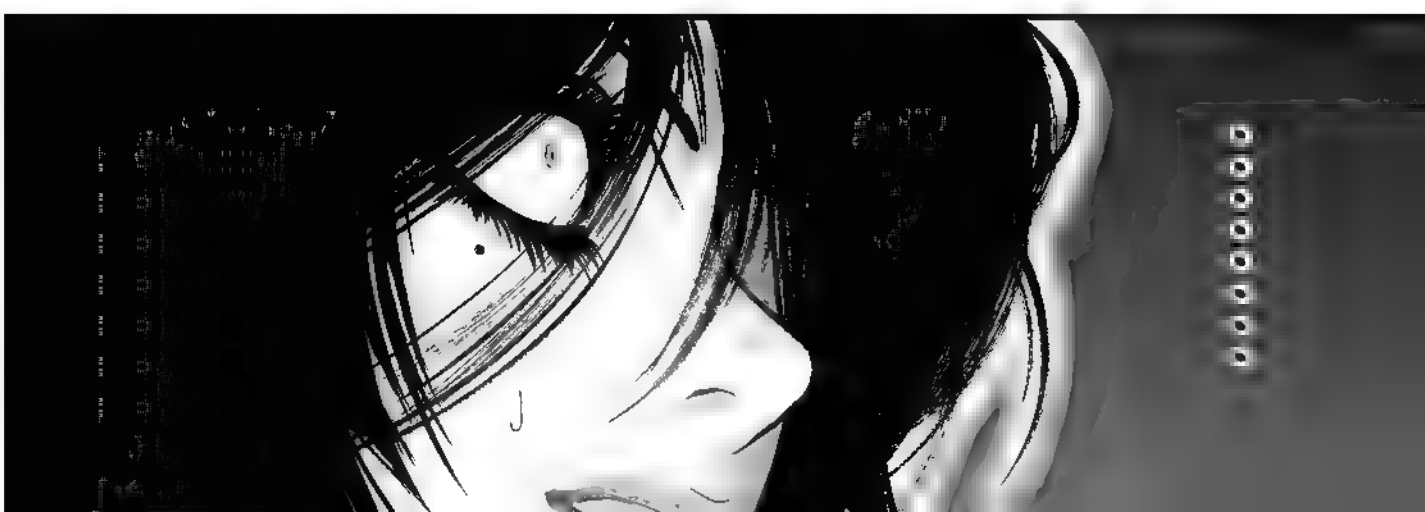
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT TOOK...

...TO FLUSH HER OUT HERE FOR YOU.

SPEAKING OF OBORO, KAGEROU...
?

...OBORO.
THAT LEAVES...

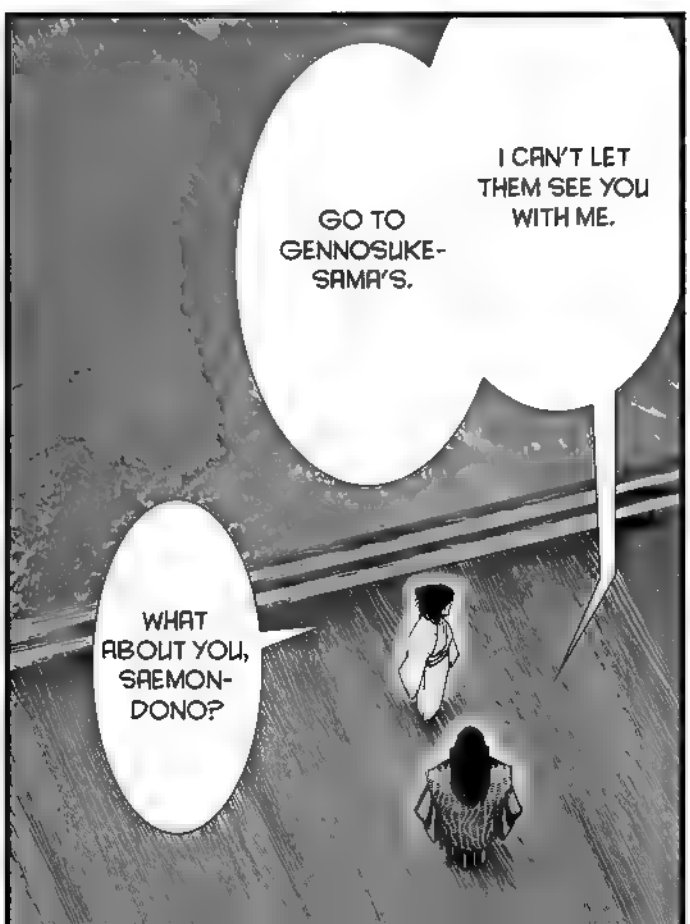
HER ENCHANTED EYES...
...HAVE BEEN SEALED.
AKEGINU MENTIONED THAT SHE WAS BLINDED.


.....

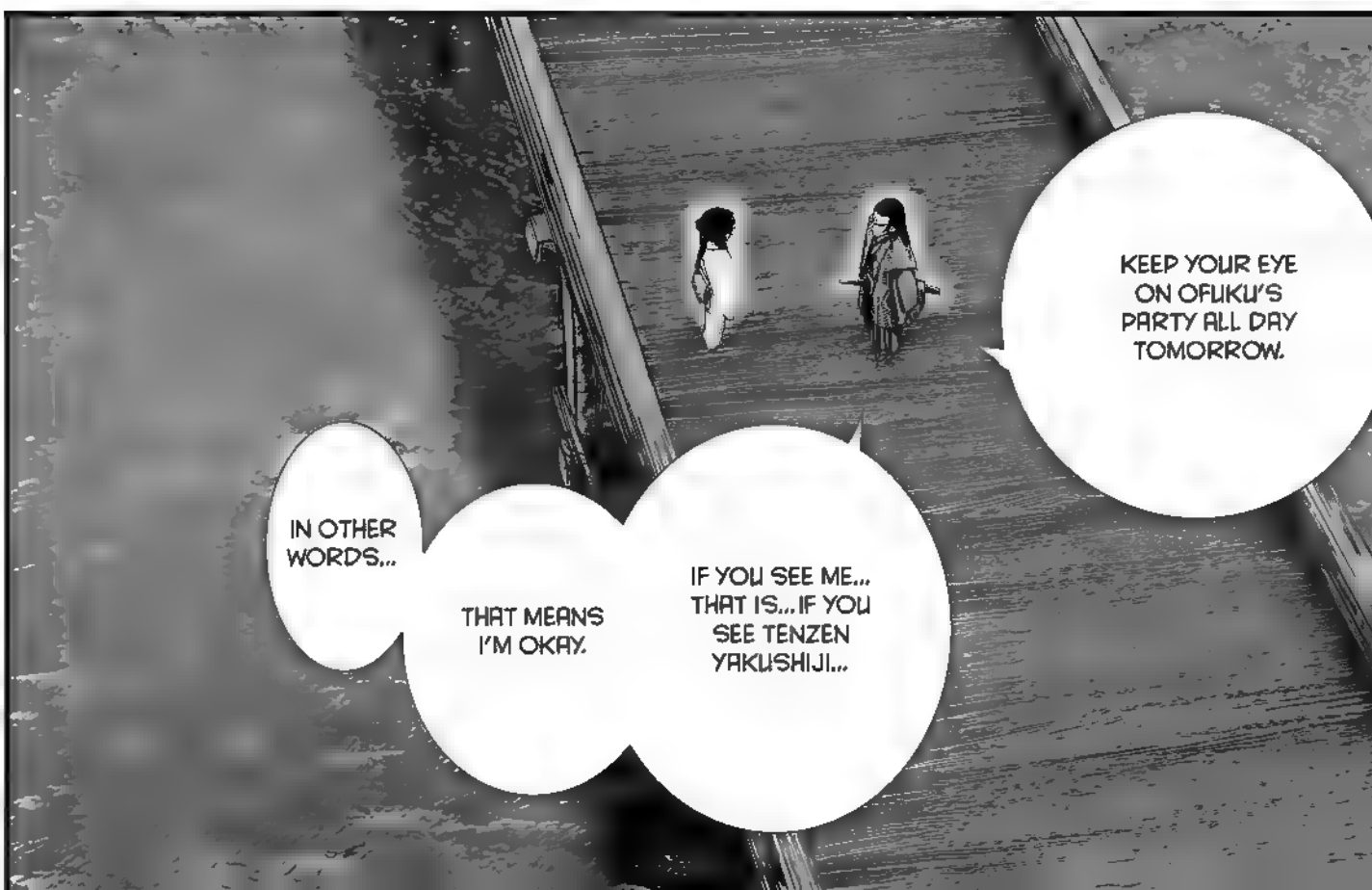
ARE-ARE YOU CERTAIN, SAEMON-DONO?
OVER
OVER THERE
WHERE

PROBABLY OFUKU'S GUARDS...
SOMEONE IS APPROACHING.
A LARGE PARTY...
!?

I'LL STAY HERE, AND BLEND IN WITH OFUKU'S PARTY, AND...
I'LL SLAY OBORO ONCE AND FOR ALL.


I CAN'T LET THEM SEE YOU WITH ME.
GO TO GENNOSUKE-SAMA'S.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SAEMON-DONO?

LET ME...
...KILL OBORO.
SAEMON-DONO...
WHAT IS IT?
YOU CAN JOIN ME.
OKAY.


KEEP YOUR EYE ON OFUKU'S PARTY ALL DAY TOMORROW.
IF YOU SEE ME... THAT IS... IF YOU SEE TENZEN YAKUSHIJI...
THAT MEANS I'M OKAY.
IN OTHER WORDS...

I'LL HANDLE OFUKU'S PARTY.
AND...
...REALLY ARE SEALED SHUT.
THAT MEANS THAT OBORO'S ENCHANTED EYES...
HMM...
I'LL TELL THEM THAT...

I CAUGHT YOU AND RAPED YOU INTO SUBMISSION...
...AND THAT YOU...
...HAVE SWITCHED SIDES AND JOINED THE IGA CLAN.

OF COURSE...
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS?
ANY MAN WHO TRIED TO RAPE YOU WOULD DIE INSTANTLY, BUT...
THOSE IGA BASTARDS WON'T KNOW THAT.
NO... THAT'S FINE.
WELL THEN, I'M OFF.
OKAY.
OBORO IS BLIND, SO...
IT SHOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH.

WHOOSH
HERE THEY ARE.

I WAS RAISED IN THE MOUNTAINS OF IGA LIKE A WILD BEAST.

WELL IF IT ISN'T OFUKU-SAMA'S GUARDS...
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY BEHAVIOR EARLIER.

SOMETIMES I ACT TOO RASHLY...
.....
....AND THEN REGRET IT LATER.

WHERE IS...
...AKEGINU-DONO?

AKEGINU...
...WENT CHASING AFTER GENNOSUKE KOUGA, THE LEADER OF THE KOUGA CLAN.

WHAT?
YOU MEAN, GENNOSUKE KOUGA WAS HERE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?

BUT ISN'T IT DANGEROUS TO SEND A LONE WOMAN AFTER HIM?

WE WOUNDED HIM, BUT WE COULDN'T QUITE FINISH HIM OFF.
THE BASTARD TOOK OFF RUNNING FAST AS HELL.

THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY.
SHE IS NO ORDINARY WOMAN. AKEGINU WAS CHOSEN BY OGEN AS ONE OF THE 10 NINJA TO FIGHT AGAINST THE KOUGA CLAN.
NOT AT ALL.

THAT'S GENNOSUKE'S BLOOD.
YES...
WHAT? AH...
THIS GUY'S SHARP.

HUH?
WHAT'S THAT BLOOD ON THE HANDRAIL?

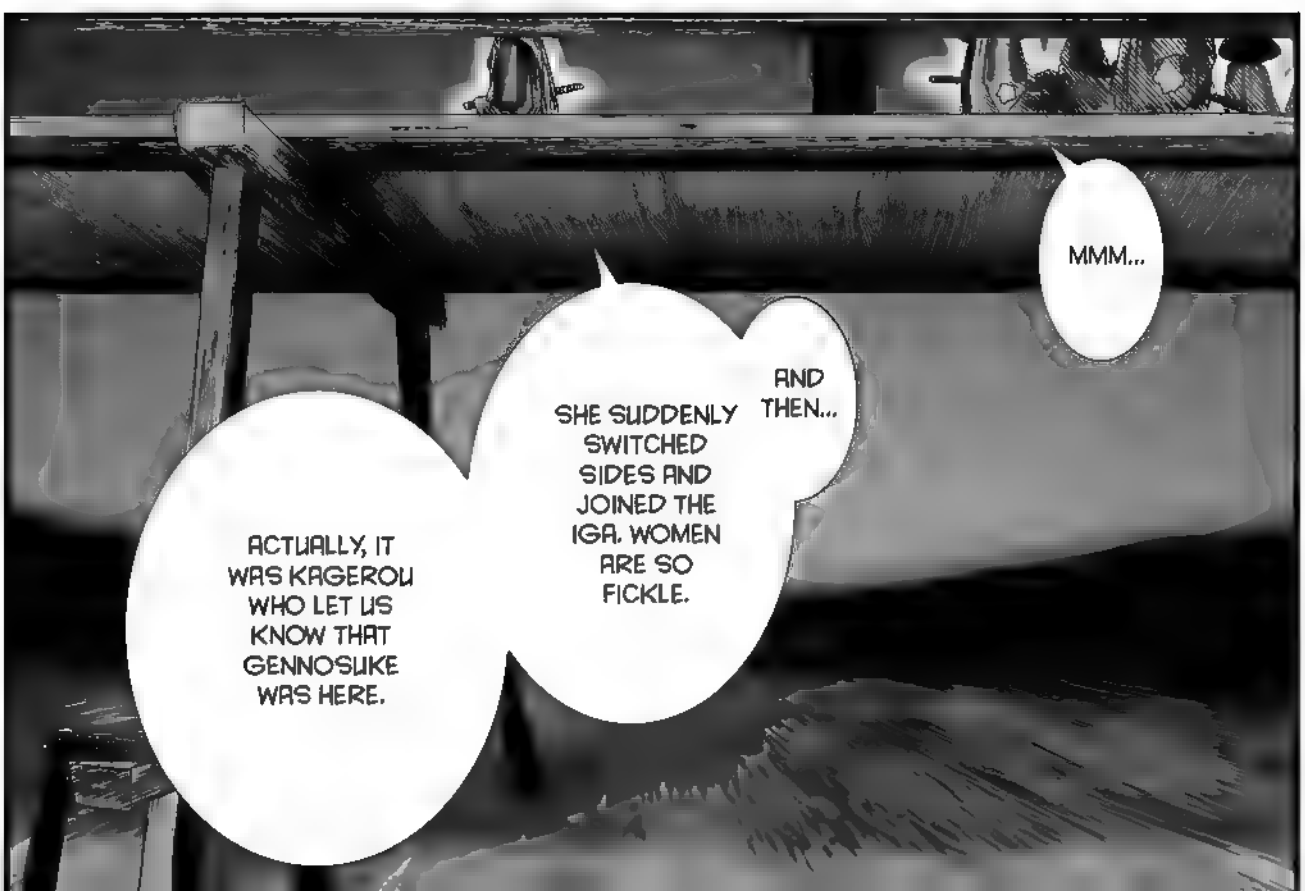
TO PROTECT OBORO-SAMA, OF COURSE.
THE KOUGA NINJA SAEMON KISARAGI IS STILL OUT THERE.

SO, WHY IS IT THAT YOU CHOSE TO STAY BEHIND?
OH, OF COURSE.

A FEMALE NINJA NAMED KAGEROU.
ACCORDING TO AKEGINU, THERE WAS ONE MORE AS WELL.

I TAMED HER.
YES...

...AND TAUGHT HER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A WOMAN.
I CAUGHT HER...
EXACTLY.
WHEN I FOUGHT WITH THE KOUGA AT KOMABANO...
TAMED HER?


ACTUALLY, IT WAS KAGEROU WHO LET US KNOW THAT GENNOSUKE WAS HERE.
SHE SUDDENLY SWITCHED SIDES AND JOINED THE IGA. WOMEN ARE SO FICKLE.
AND THEN...
MMM...

PLEASE LET HER PASS.
RIGHT NOW SHE WANTS TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE, BUT...
IF SHE COMES TO SEE ME...
.....
UNDER-STOOD.

WELL...

I'VE GOT TO SEE OBORO-SAMA AND OFUKU-SAMA RIGHT AWAY.
IN ANY CASE...
I'D LIKE YOU TO GUIDE ME TO THEM.

ALL OF US WERE DEEPLY IMPRESSED.
WE'D NEVER BEFORE WITNESSED THE DEADLINESS OF SUCH NINJA TECHNIQUE.
MOMENTS AGO, YOU TOOK OUT SEVERAL OF OUR MEN IN AN INSTANT...

WE NEVER WOULD'VE BEHAVED IN SUCH A RECKLESS FASHION.
IF WE HAD KNOWN YOU WERE TENZEN YAKUSHIJI...
IT IS AN HONOR TO BE ON YOUR SIDE.

WELL...YOU CAN HARDLY CALL THAT NINJA TECHNIQUE.

I'M ACTUALLY ON MY WAY TO SLAY OBORO.
HEH... ON MY SIDE?

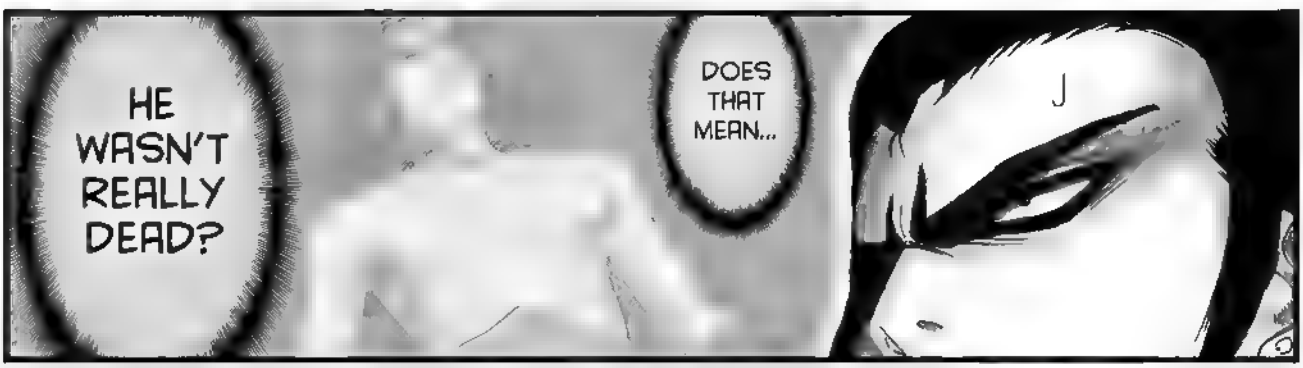
TENZEN YAKUSHIJI-DONO...
BY THE WAY...

ACCORDING TO AKEGINU-DONO...
?
YOU ARE AN IMMORTAL NINJA.
SHE SAID YOU NEVER DIE NO MATTER HOW BADLY YOU'RE WOUNDED.

WHAT?
.....
END OF KILL NUMBER 28

KILL NUMBER 29
[3 VS 2]
NO MATTER...
...HOW BADLY YOU'RE WOUNDED, YOU NEVER DIE...
YOU ARE AN IMMORTAL NINJA.
...WHAT?

TENZEN IS IMMORTAL?
AKEGINU TOLD YOU THAT?
SHIT.
IMMORTAL?


HE WASN'T REALLY DEAD?
DOES THAT MEAN...
J

THAT'S RIGHT... IF SOMEONE REALLY WANTS TO KILL YOU...
THEY MUST...
...COMPLETELY CHOP OFF YOUR HEAD .

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO BRING YOURSELF BACK FROM THE DEAD.
YOU CAN HEAL A NORMAL WOUND IN MINUTES.

...I'D LIKE TO...
...WITNESS THAT TECHNIQUE.

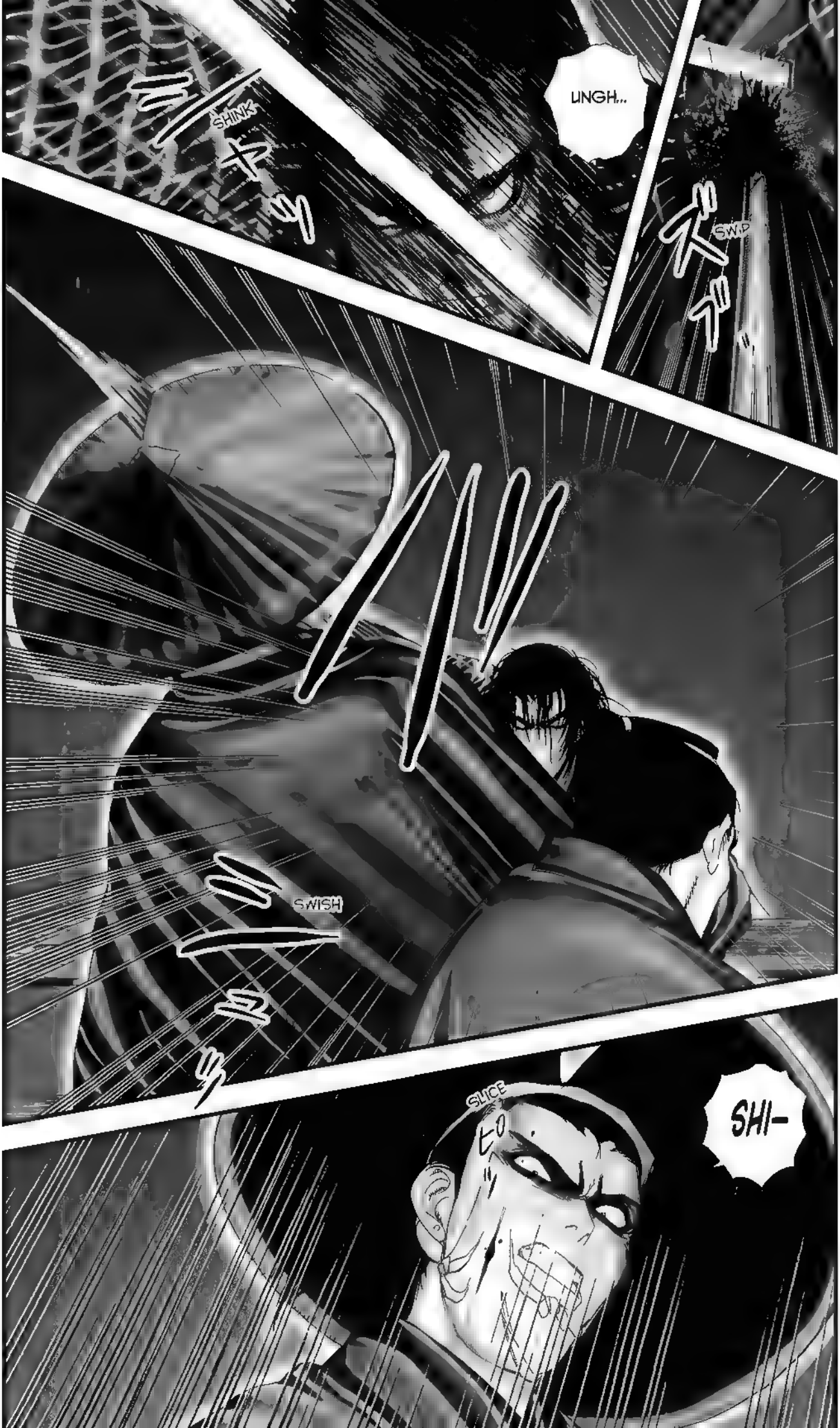
.....
KACHINK

JUST ONCE...
SWIP

SHWIP
THUNK
UNGH...
UN...

UNGH...

WELL, WELL...
HRRMPH...
YANK
!


SHINK
UNGH...
SWIP
SWISH
SLICE
SHI-

UNGH...
THUNK
WHOA!
GRIN
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.
TEN... ZEN...
YAKU... SHIJI...
SAEMON KISARAGI.
WASN'T IT?
WAIT... I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOUR NAME.
FWIK

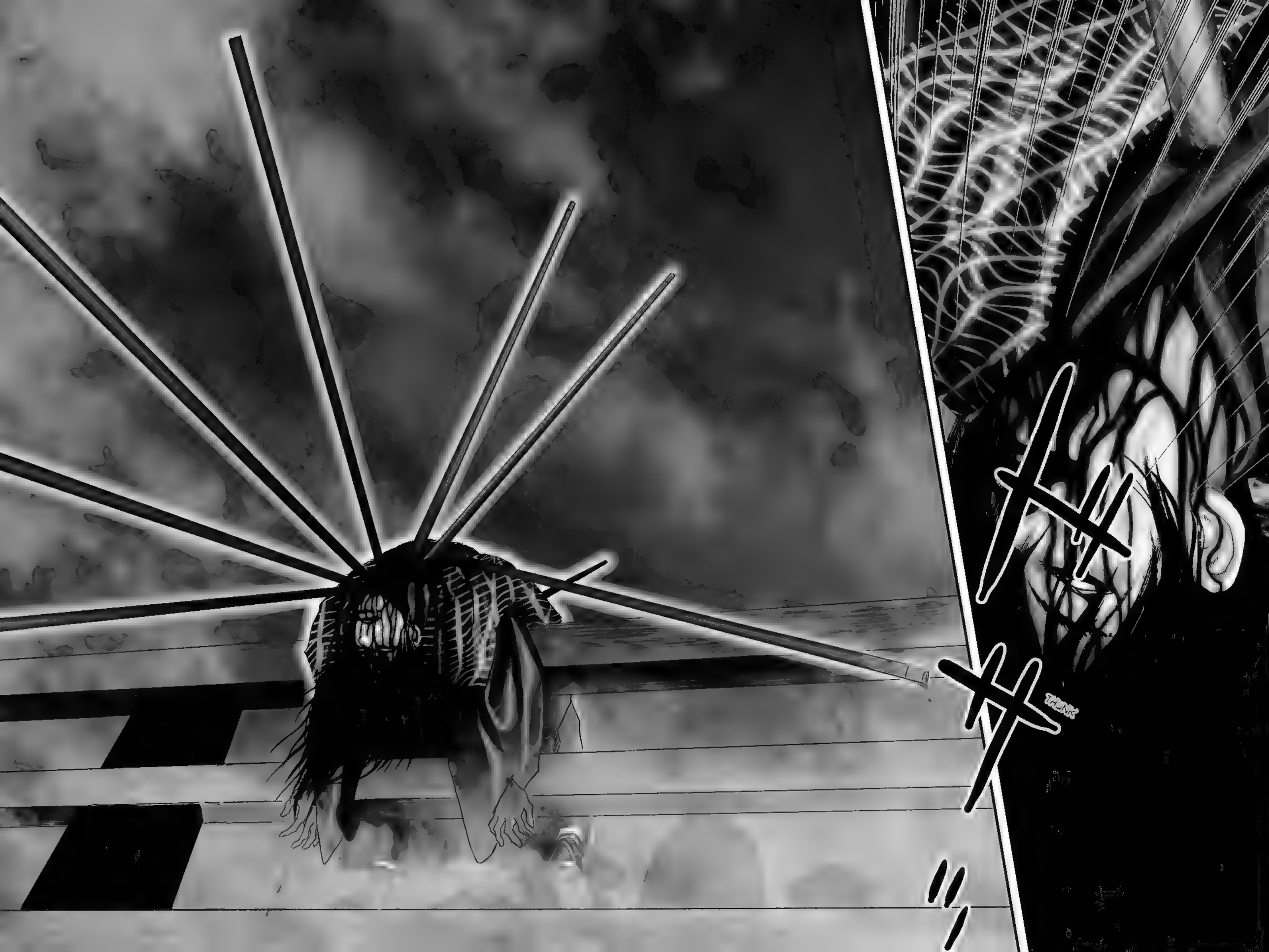
AHH!
AHH!
AAAHHH!
FWISH

GLRRBLL

FWIP

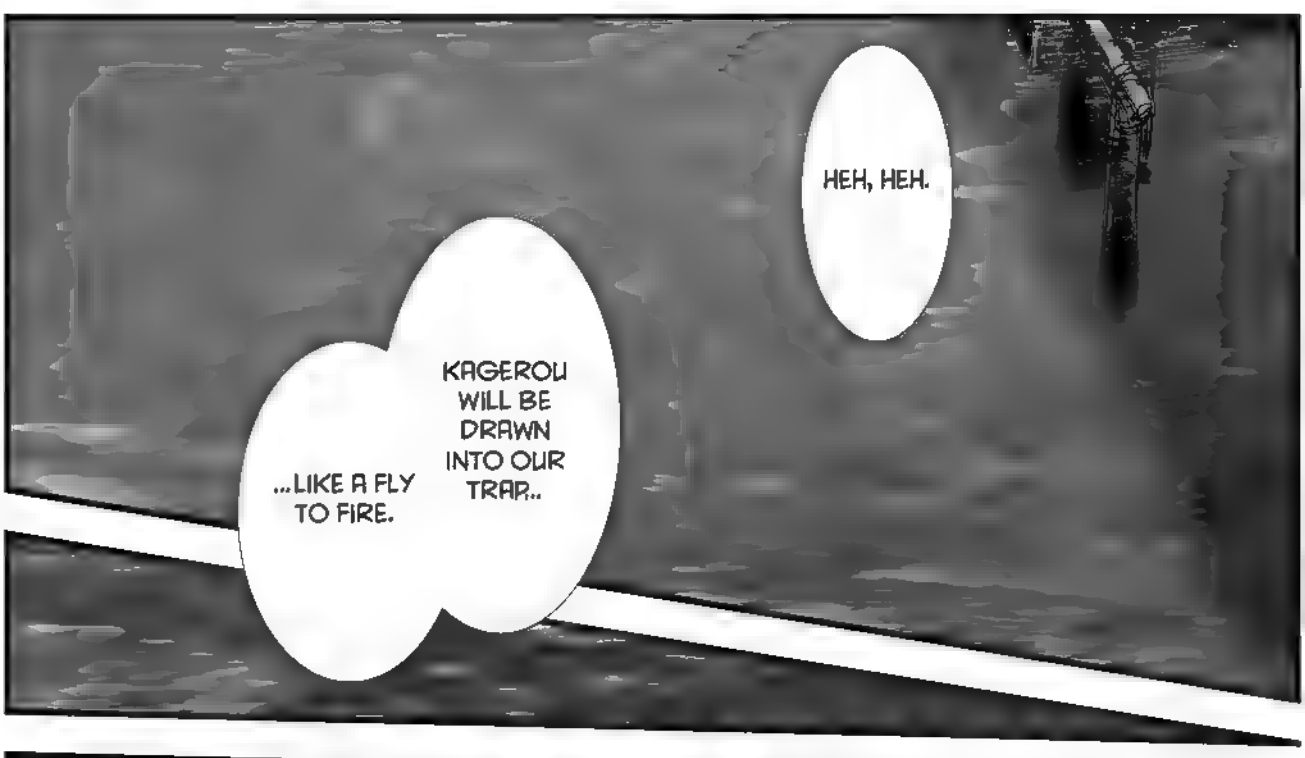
MMM...
IT'S AWFULLY HARD TO GET RID OF ME FOR GOOD.
MM...
MM... MM...
THANKS TO MY LITTLE FRIEND HERE...
WAHH!
UWAH!

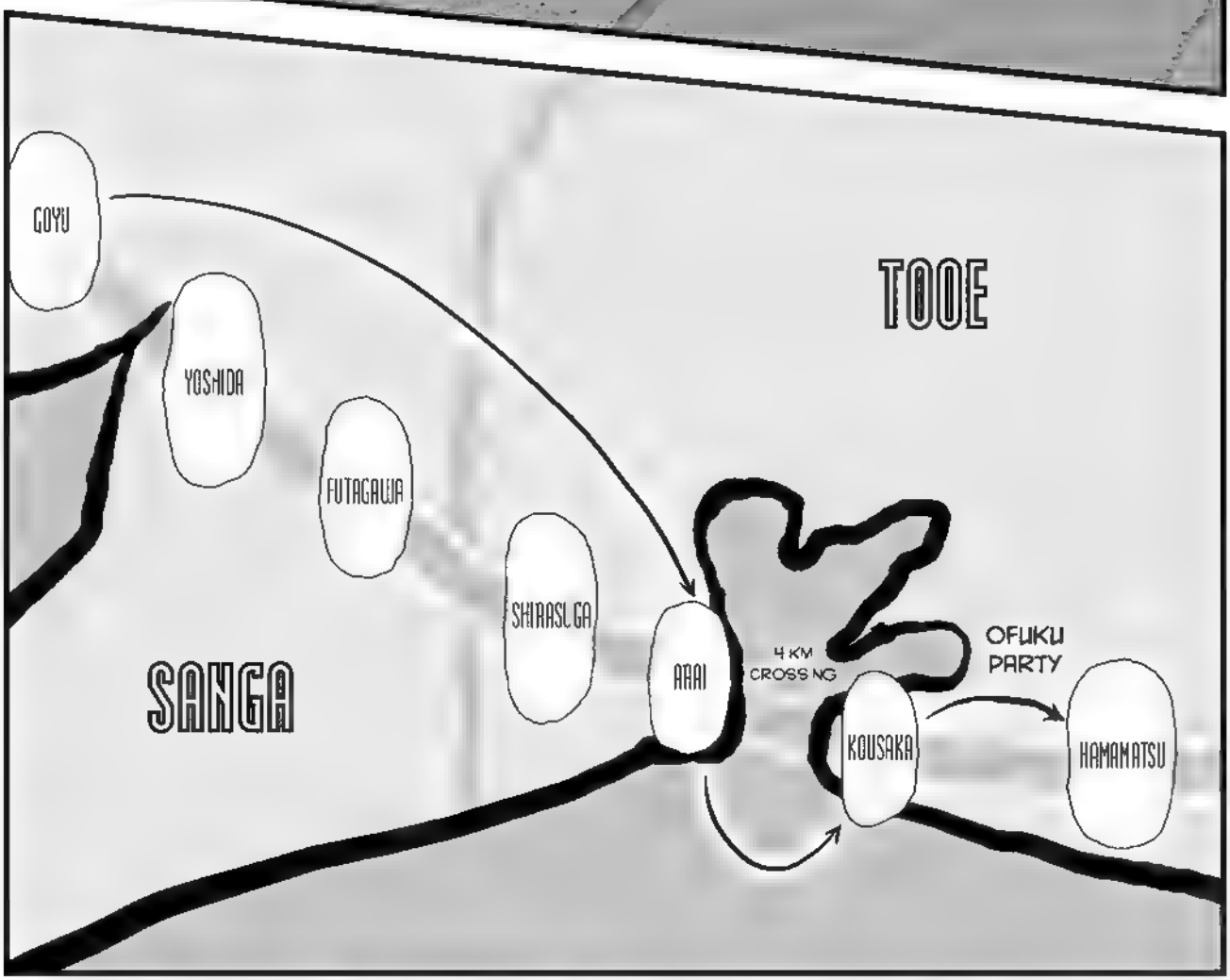
.....
.....
YOU...
...MONSTER...
YOU—
KACHINK
カ
ニ
ヤ
KACHINK
カ
ニ
ヤ
KACHINK
カ
ニ
ヤ

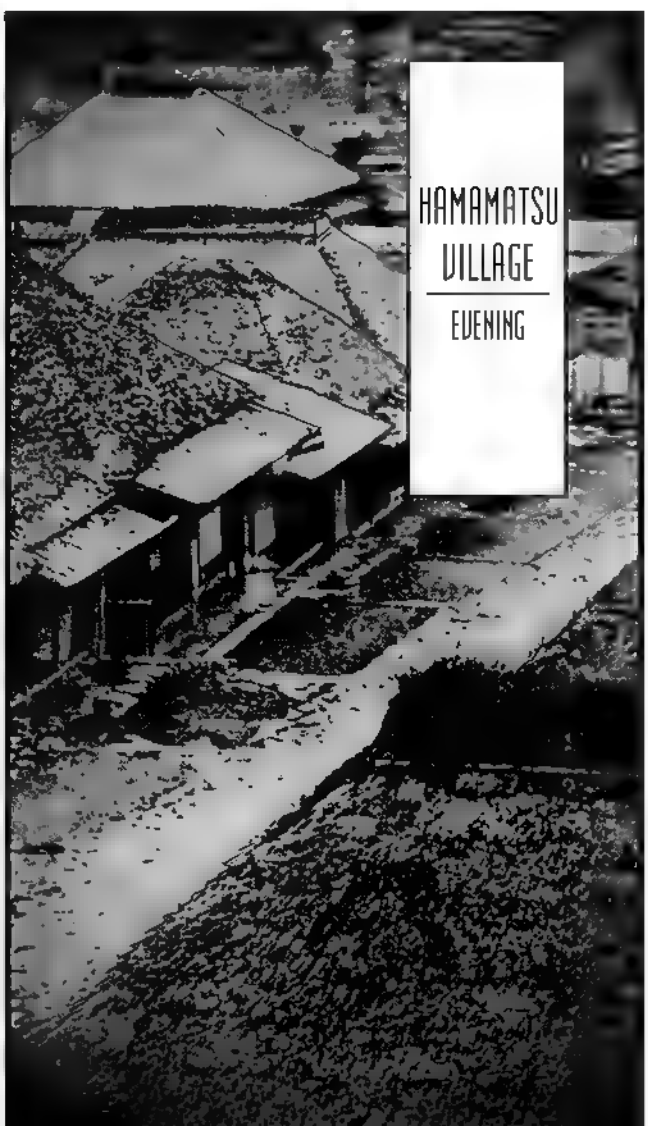

THUNK

YOUR SHAPE-SHIFTING TECHNIQUE IS TRULY REMARKABLE...
BUT...
TURNING YOURSELF INTO ME WAS A BIG MISTAKE.

THE BASTARD...
...SAID HE RAPED KAGEROU, AND THAT SHE HAS SWITCHED HER ALLEGIANCE TO THE IGA CLAN.
HE SAID SHE'D BE COMING TO SEE HIM SOON, DIDN'T HE... HEH, HEH.
WE'LL USE HIS LIE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.


HEH, HEH.
KAGEROU WILL BE DRAWN INTO OUR TRAP..
...LIKE A FLY TO FIRE.


GOYU
YOSHIDA
FUTAGAWA
SHIRASUGA
ARAI
4 KM
CROSSING
OFUKU
PARTY
KOUSAKA
HAMAMATSU
TOOE
SANGA


HAMAMATSU
VILLAGE
EVENING

PARDON ME...

ARE YOU... KAGEROU OF THE KOUGA CLAN?
AH...
AH...

...STAYING AT THIS INN?
IS THERE A MAN BY THE NAME OF TENZEN YAKUSHIJI-SAMA...

YES...
I AM SHE.

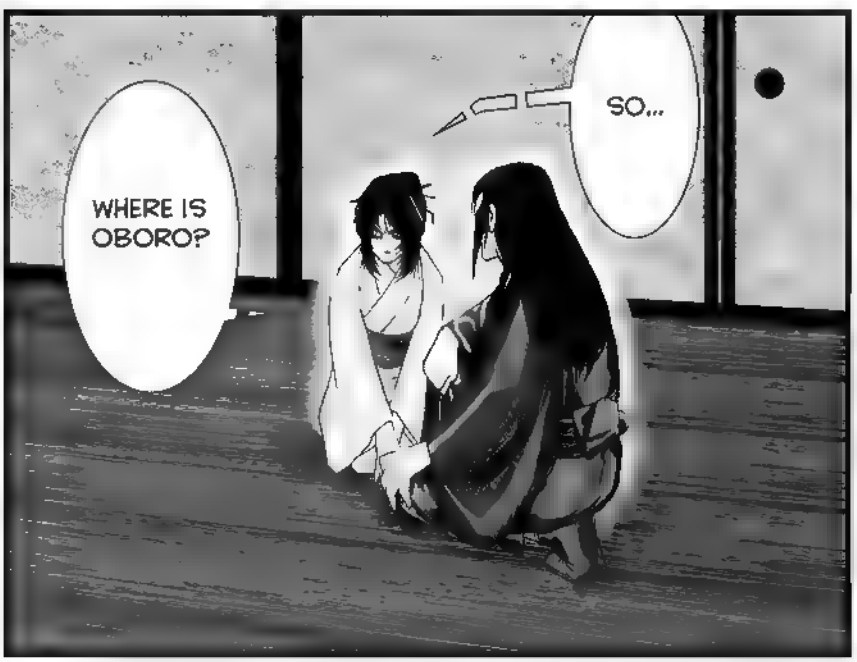
PLEASE WAIT HERE FOR TENZEN-DONO.

SLIDE
TENZEN-SAMA TOLD US ABOUT YOU.

I SAW SAEMON ON THE BRIDGE WITH OFUKU'S GUARDS...
HE WAS CHATTING AND LAUGHING WITH THEM... SO...
EVERYTHING MUST HAVE GONE AS PLANNED.

SLIDE

!


SO...
WHERE IS OBORO?

SAEMON-DONO...
SIGH

WE'RE BEING WATCHED.
COME CLOSER, KAGEROU.
.....

SHH!

IT'S YOU SHE SUSPECTS, KAGEROU.
NOT ME.
DO THEY SUSPECT YOU, SAEMON-DONO?
.....
SHE KEPT SAYING "WHY WOULD A KOUGA NINJA SWITCH TO THE IGA CLAN SO EASILY?"
OBORO?
I TOLD HER THAT I RAPED YOU, AND HAD YOU IN MY CONTROL...
BUT SHE KEPT SAYING THAT I HAD FALLEN INTO YOUR TRAP.
SHE DOESN'T TRUST ANY-BODY.
NO. SHE WILL TRUST ANYBODY.
IT'S OFUKU WHO IS SUSPICIOUS OF YOU.

THEN...
WHY DID OFUKU'S GUARDS ASK ME TO WAIT IN THIS ROOM?

.....
GULP
ゴクッ...

THEY STILL...
...DON'T KNOW WHAT TO BELIEVE, KAGEROU.

FIRST...
WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY TRUST US.
UH... UH...

SA-SAEMON-DONO?

UH...

SA-SAEMON-DONO...
WHAT'RE YOU—

THUD

I RAPED YOU IN KOMABANO...
I TOLD THEM THAT...

WE HAVE TO MAKE THEM BELIEVE US.

I HAVE TO PROVE I WASN'T LYING...
...TO WIN THEIR TRUST.

SA-SAEMON-DONO!
MY...
...BREATH...
TH-THIS.....
AH...THAT'S GOOD, KAGEROU.
LET THEM HEAR YOU.
AH.
LET THEM HEAR YOUR SWEET, FLOWER-LIKE BREATH.
SHWIP
しゅるっ
.....
...CAN'T BE...

THIS CAN'T BE SAEMON-DONO!
SAEMON-DONO WOULD NEVER DO THIS.

I...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
BUT...
IT MUST BE HIM...
TENZEN... YAKUSHIJI.

AH...
AH...
SAE...
MON...
SQUEEZE
...DONO...

END OF KILL NUMBER 29

忠臣蔵

大序

鶴岡八幡宮

二段目

桃井若狭之介館

三段目

松の間

四段目

五段目

六段目

七段目

八段目

九段目

十段目

十一段目

紅十人組秘巻
その参
雨夜陣五郎

作・真田龍

AH...
AH...
TEN...
ZEN...
SQUEEZE
...DONO...
...TENZEN YAKUSHIJI!
YOU'RE MINE...

.....
THIS TIME FOR SURE!

ONLY OBORO...
...WILL BE LEFT.
ONCE I TAKE CARE OF...
...TENZEN ONCE AND FOR ALL...

KILL NUMBER 30

[2 VS 2]

AH...

AH...

AHHH...

AH...

UH...

UNGH...

GENNOSUKE... SAMA...

...SAMA...

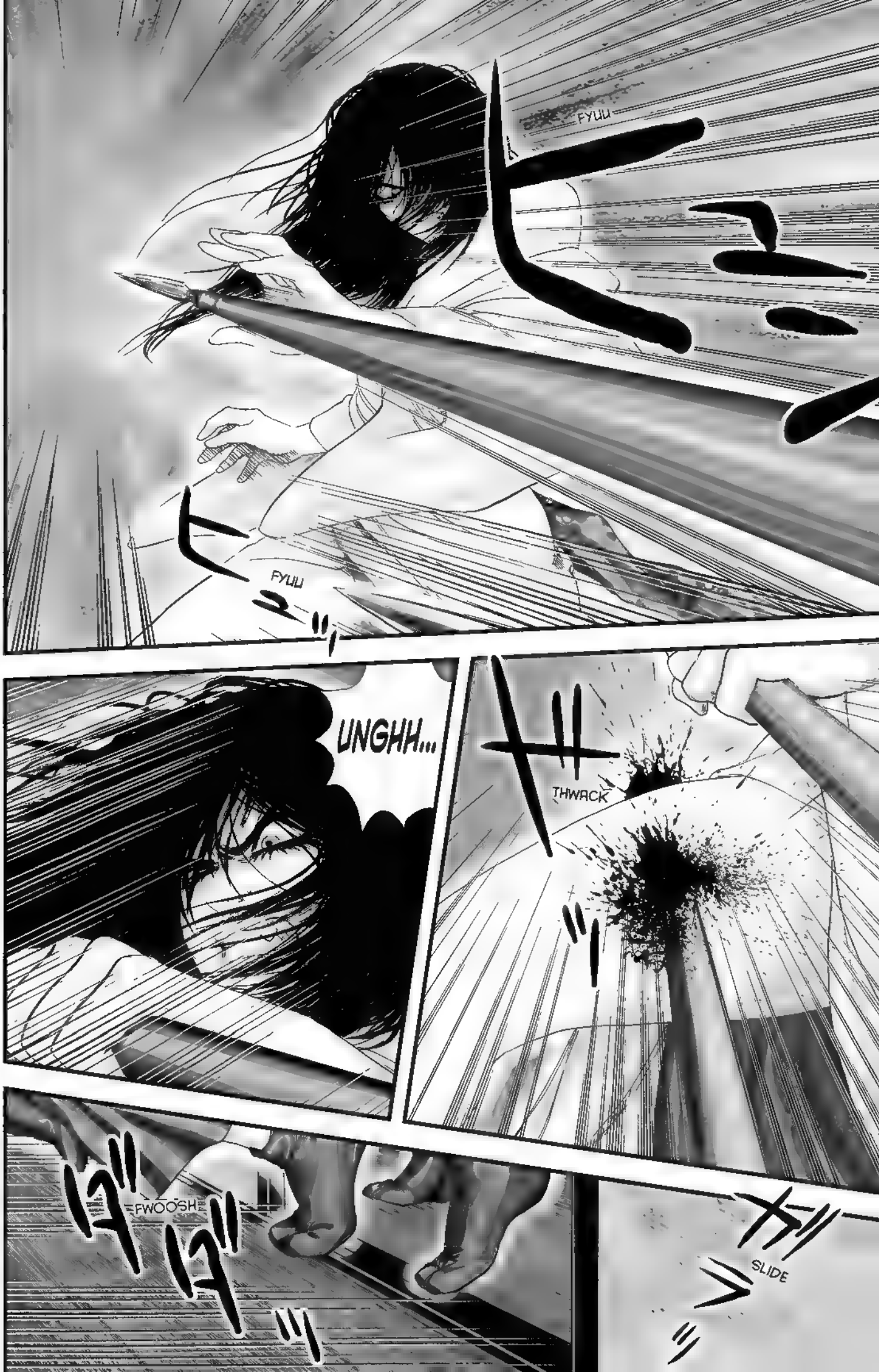
GEN...

...NO... SUKE... SAMA.

AH...

THUNK
WOBBLE
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

YANK
……
SLIDE
カタ
CRACK
ゴキ
!?
SHWIP


FYUU
FYUU
UNGHH...
THWACK
FWOOSH
SLIDE

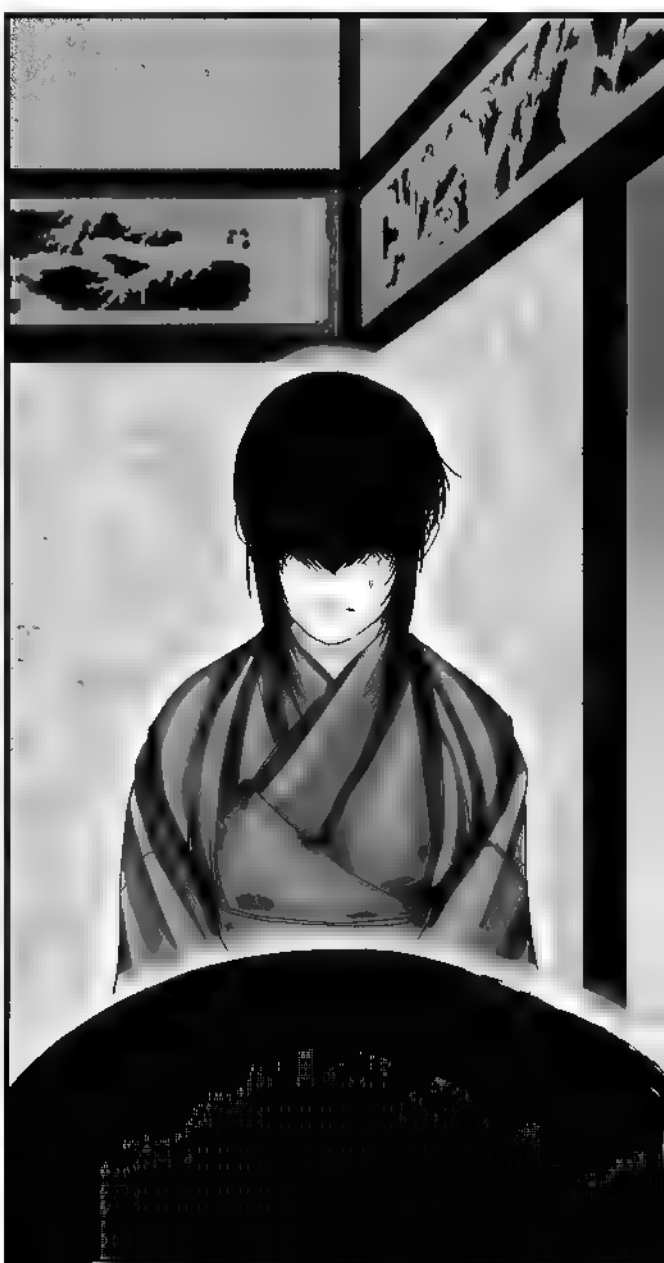
FWACK
HYAA!
HYAA!
THUNK
SLIDE
カラ
TENZEN-DONO!
WAKE UP!
TENZEN-DONO!

HOW DID IT GO?
OBORO
[IGA]
OFUKU
TH-THAT KOUGA WOMAN...SHE... TENZEN-DONO IS...
.....
WHAT?
I TOLD HIM NOT TO...
...MAKE USE OF SAEMON KISARAGI'S LIE.

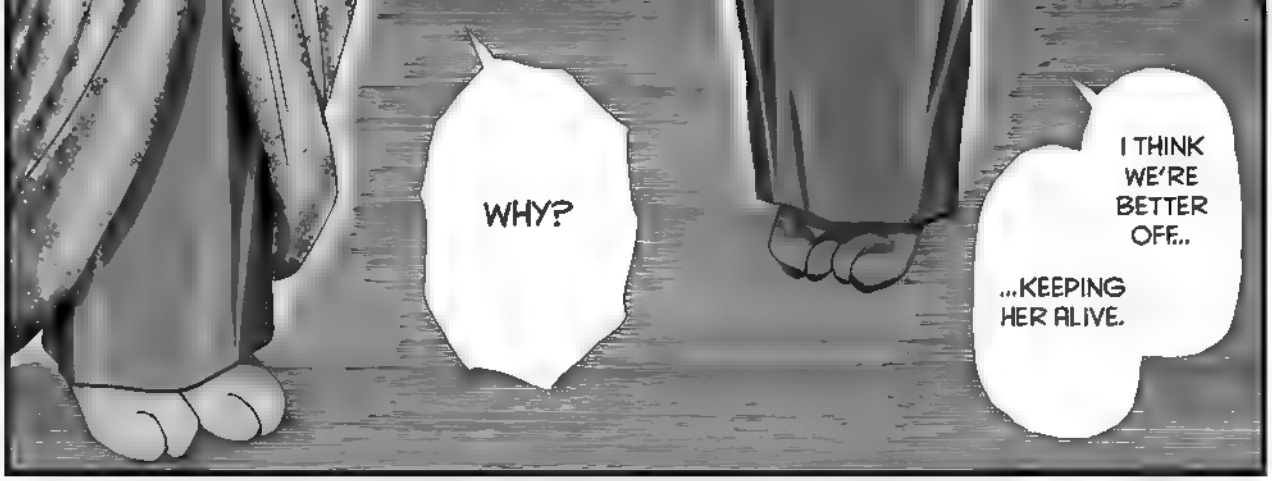
DOES SHE HAVE THE BATTLE SCROLL?
NO, SHE DOES NOT.
SO THAT'S KAGEROU OF THE KOUGA CLAN?
KILL HER...
...OBORO.
STARE
O... BORO?

HOW DARE YOU BRING OUTSIDE FORCES INTO THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE IGA AND THE KOUGA!
YOU CALL YOURSELF A NINJA?

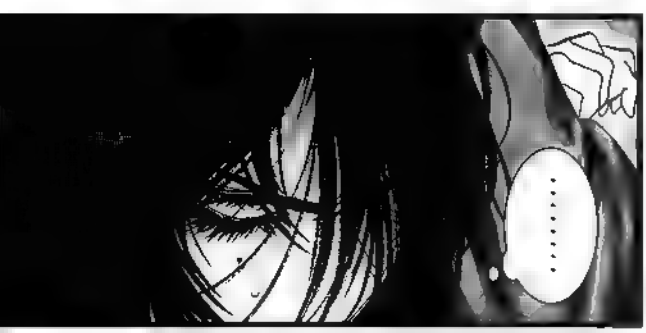
YOU CAN BUILD A STEEL WALL AROUND YOURSELF...
...BUT THAT WON'T STOP GENNOSUKE KOUGA!
IN THE END, YOU'LL STILL DIE BY HIS HAND!

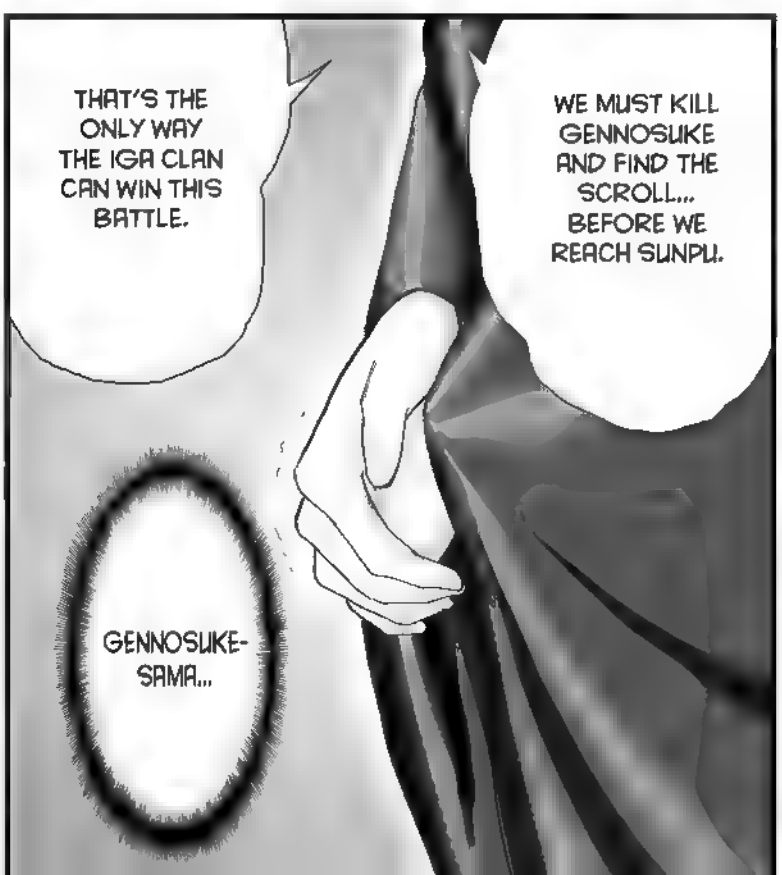


HURRY UP! FINISH HER OFF!
OBORO!


I THINK WE'RE BETTER OFF...
...KEEPING HER ALIVE.
WHY?

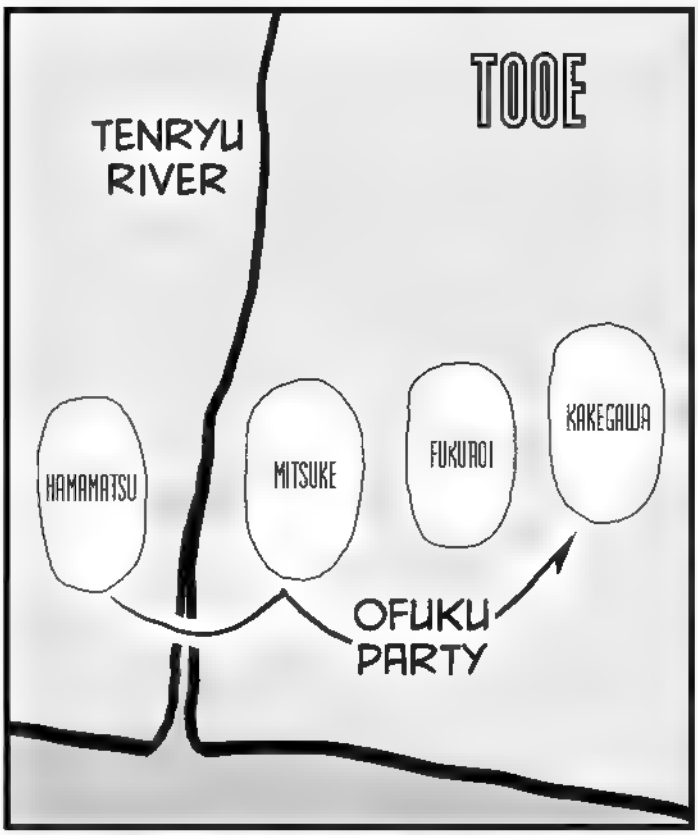
IF WE TRAVEL WITH HER...WE CAN USE HER AS BAIT...
GENNOSUKE-SAMA..
...TO LURE...
...GENNOSUKE KOUGA TO US.


.....


WE MUST KILL GENNOSUKE AND FIND THE SCROLL... BEFORE WE REACH SUNPU.
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY THE IGA CLAN CAN WIN THIS BATTLE.
GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

HMM...I SUPPOSE...
YOU'RE RIGHT.

I LONG TO SEE YOU...
GENNOSUKE-SAMA...


TOOE
TENRYU RIVER
HAMAMATSU
MITSUKE
FUKUROI
KAKEGAWA
OFUKU PARTY

KAKEGAWA VILLAGE
EVENING

HMM...
.....
HMM...
HMM...
A ROOM AT AN INN
IT'S OUR JOB TO WATCH OVER THIS GIRL.
HMM...

.....
WE'LL HAVE HELL TO PAY.
IF SHE DIES...
WELL...LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THESE WOUNDS.
FWICK
ちらっ
...THAT OTHER RICK-SHAW?
WHAT'S INSIDE...
.....
SCHWIP
ANK

NO...
NEVER MIND.
AH!
WHA- WHAT?
DID YOU SAY SOME- THING?
FWIP
UH... UM...
I GUESS WE'D BETTER PUT SOME MORE SALVE ON HER WOUNDS.
GULP
.....
GET IT YOURSELF!
GRR
OH...
WOULD YOU MIND FETCHING MY MEDICINE BAG FOR ME?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS TRYING TO GET RID OF ME.

WHAT?

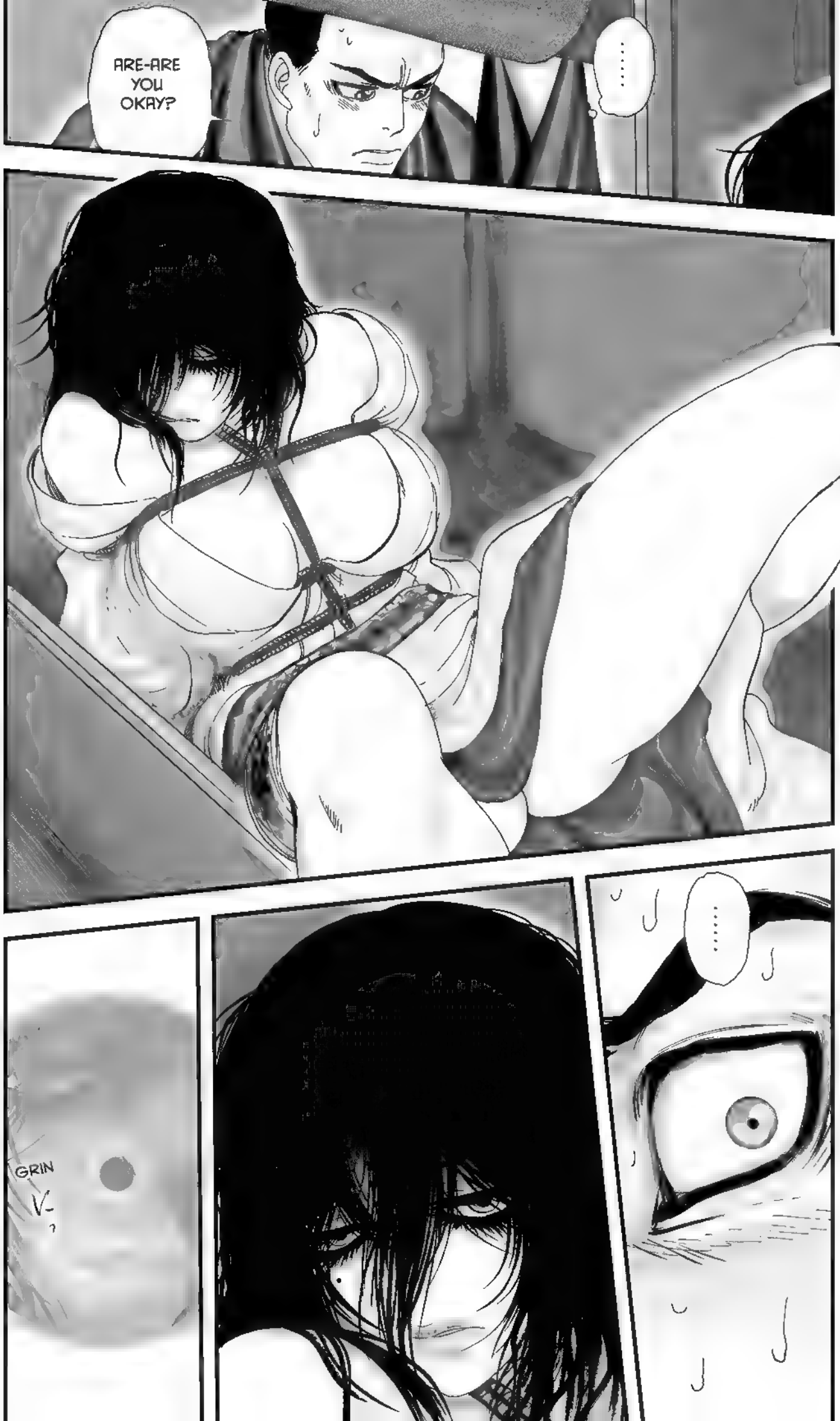
HA, HA, HA... I GET IT. YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ME TO LEAVE, SO THAT...
...YOU CAN HAVE YOUR WAY WITH THE GIRL.
WHA—WHAT? THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

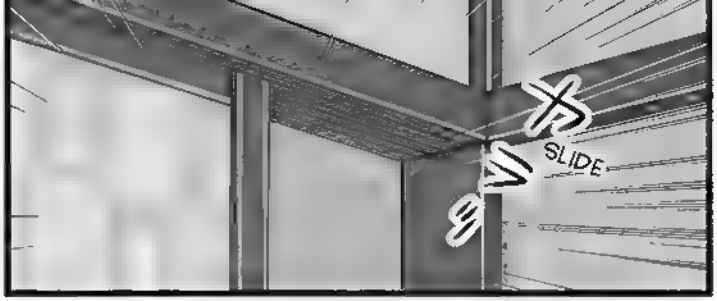
WHA- WHAT DID YOU SAY?

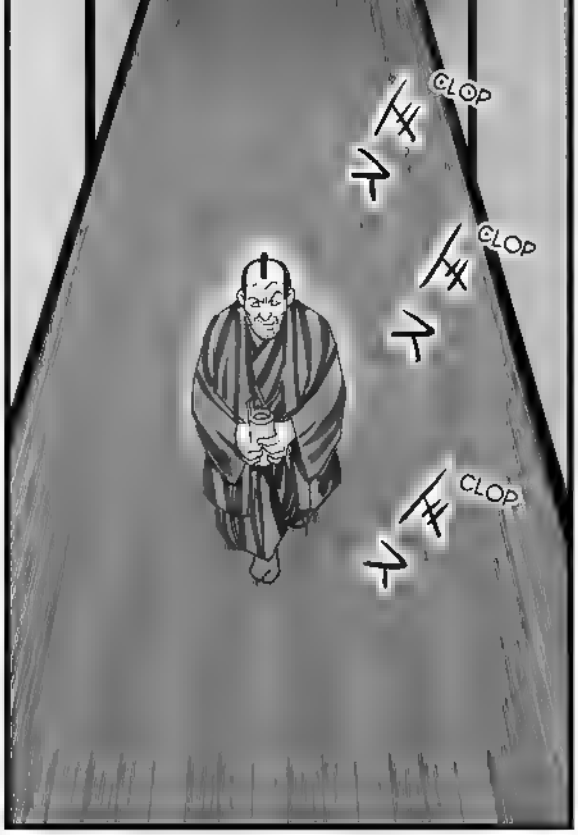
PLEASE... JUST BRING ME A GLASS OF WATER...
I'M SO... VERY THIRSTY.

UM... PARDON...
HUH? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SLIDE
SLAM
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
.....
...ANYTHING YOU WANT.
AND I'LL GIVE YOU...
JUST A SECOND. I'LL BRING YOU SOME WATER.
OKAY, OKAY.
.....
STEP


ARE-ARE YOU OKAY?
.....
.....
GRIN
V-


SLIDE


CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

HERE YOU GO! BROUGHT YOU YOUR WATER!

TRYING TO CUT IN FRONT OF ME?
WH-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YOU ASS-HOLE?

...
AGH?
AH!
SWICK
WOBBLE
THUD
THUNK

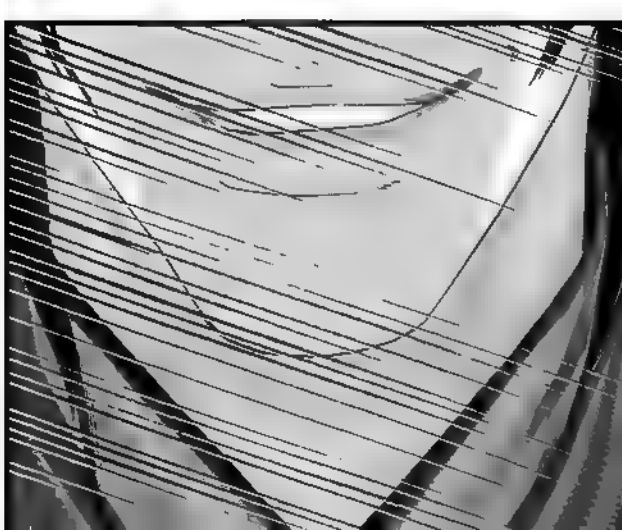
FOOLS.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE

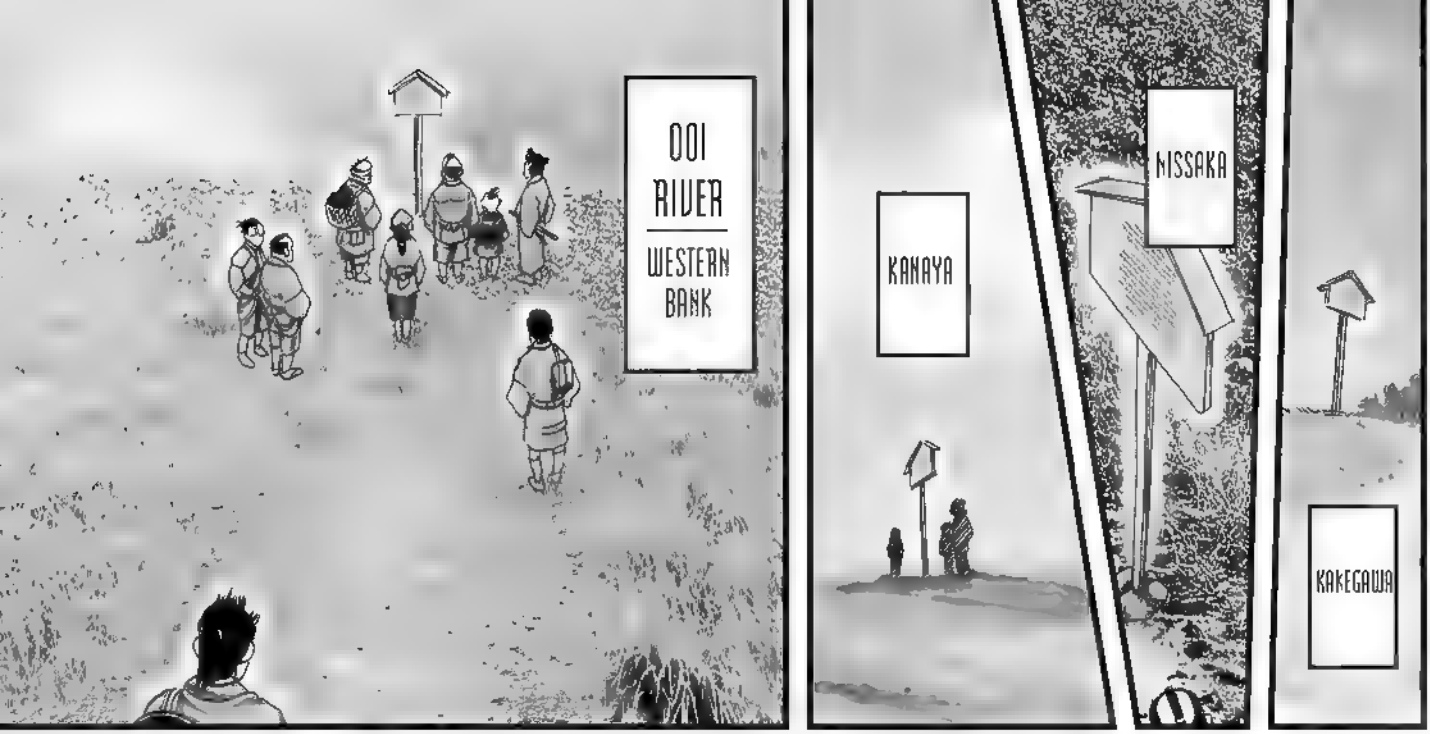
TSST

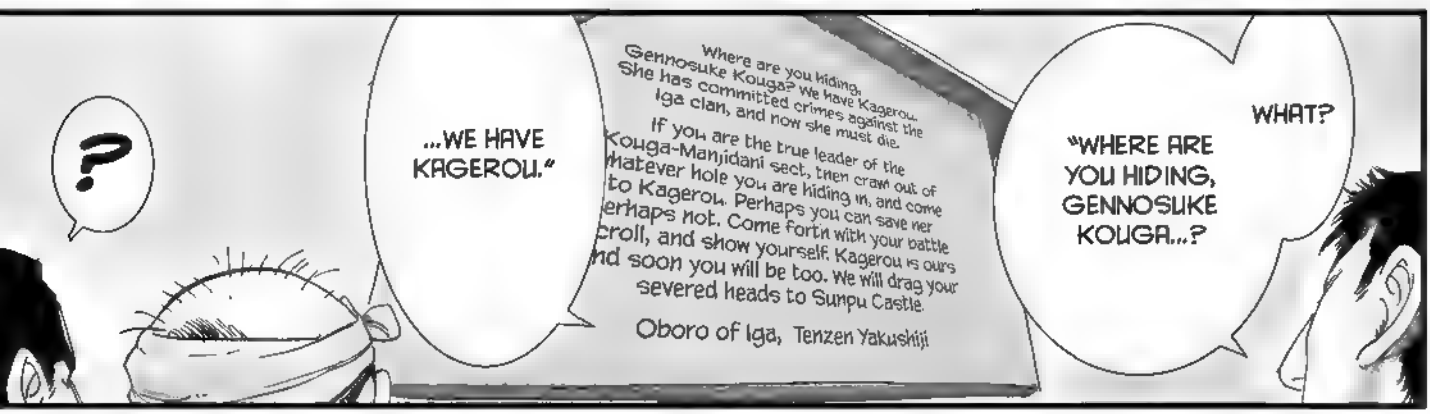
SHIVER

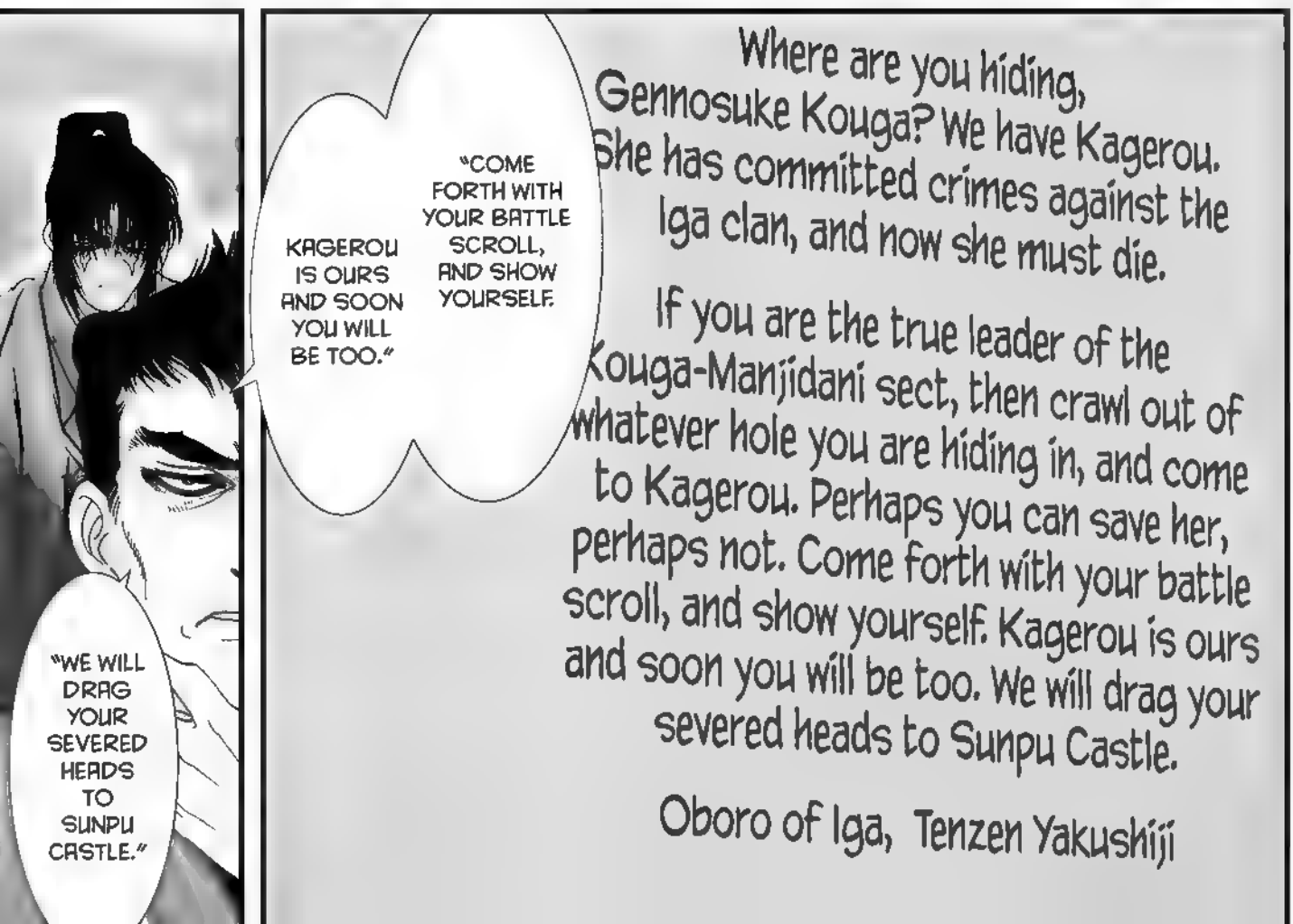
KYAAAAA!
.....

!?

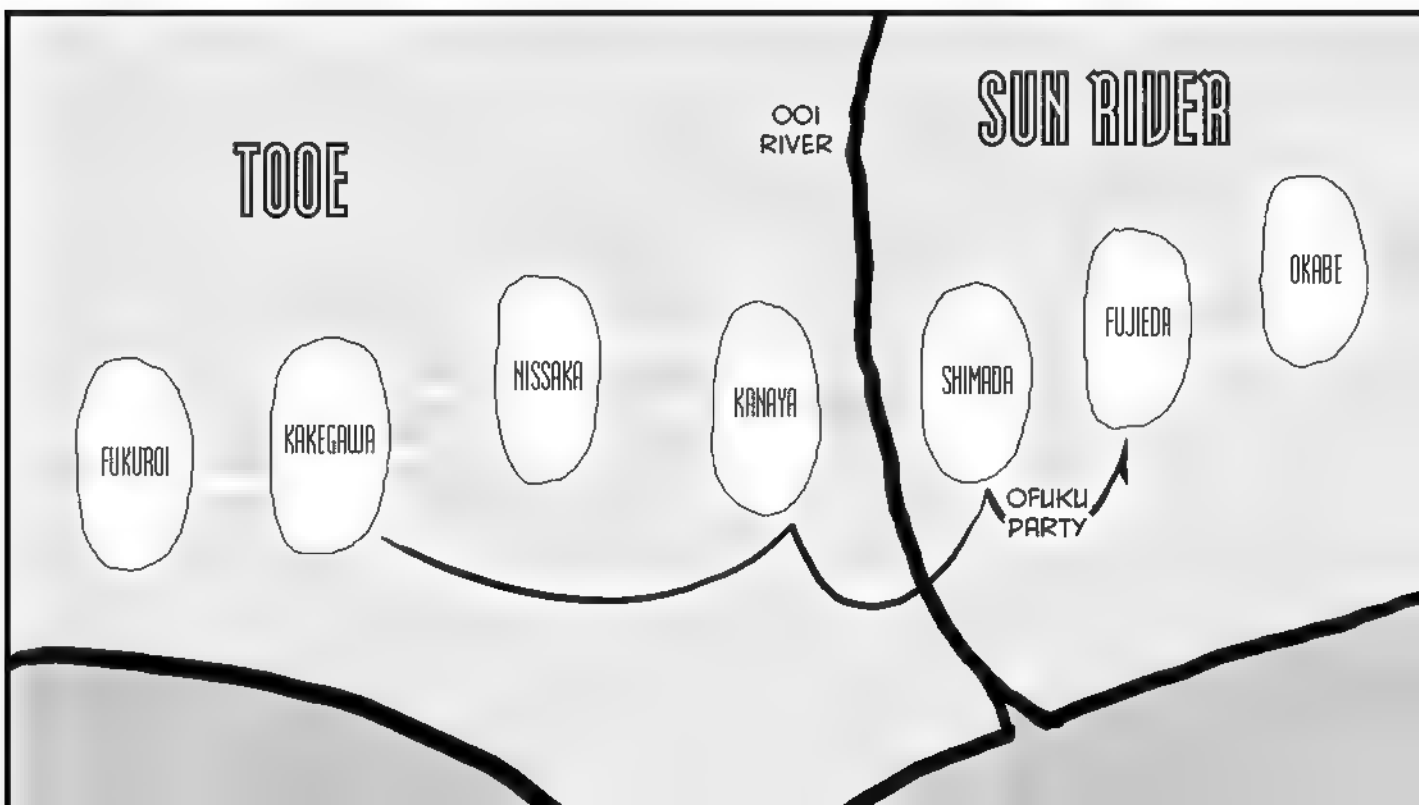



OOI
RIVER
WESTERN BANK
KANAYA
NISSAKA
KAKEGAWA


?
...WE HAVE KAGEROU."
Where are you hiding, Gennosuke Kouga? We have Kagerou. She has committed crimes against the Iga clan, and now she must die.
If you are the true leader of the Kouga-Manjidani sect, then crawl out of whatever hole you are hiding in, and come to Kagerou. Perhaps you can save her, perhaps not. Come forth with your battle scroll, and show yourself. Kagerou is ours and soon you will be too. We will drag your severed heads to Sunpu Castle.
Oboro of Iga, Tenzen Yakushiji
WHAT?
"WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, GENNOSUKE KOUGA...?


"WE WILL DRAG YOUR SEVERED HEADS TO SUNPU CASTLE."
KAGEROU IS OURS AND SOON YOU WILL BE TOO."
"COME FORTH WITH YOUR BATTLE SCROLL, AND SHOW YOURSELF.
Where are you hiding, Gennosuke Kouga? We have Kagerou. She has committed crimes against the Iga clan, and now she must die.
If you are the true leader of the Kouga-Manjidani sect, then crawl out of whatever hole you are hiding in, and come to Kagerou. Perhaps you can save her, perhaps not. Come forth with your battle scroll, and show yourself. Kagerou is ours and soon you will be too. We will drag your severed heads to Sunpu Castle.
Oboro of Iga, Tenzen Yakushiji

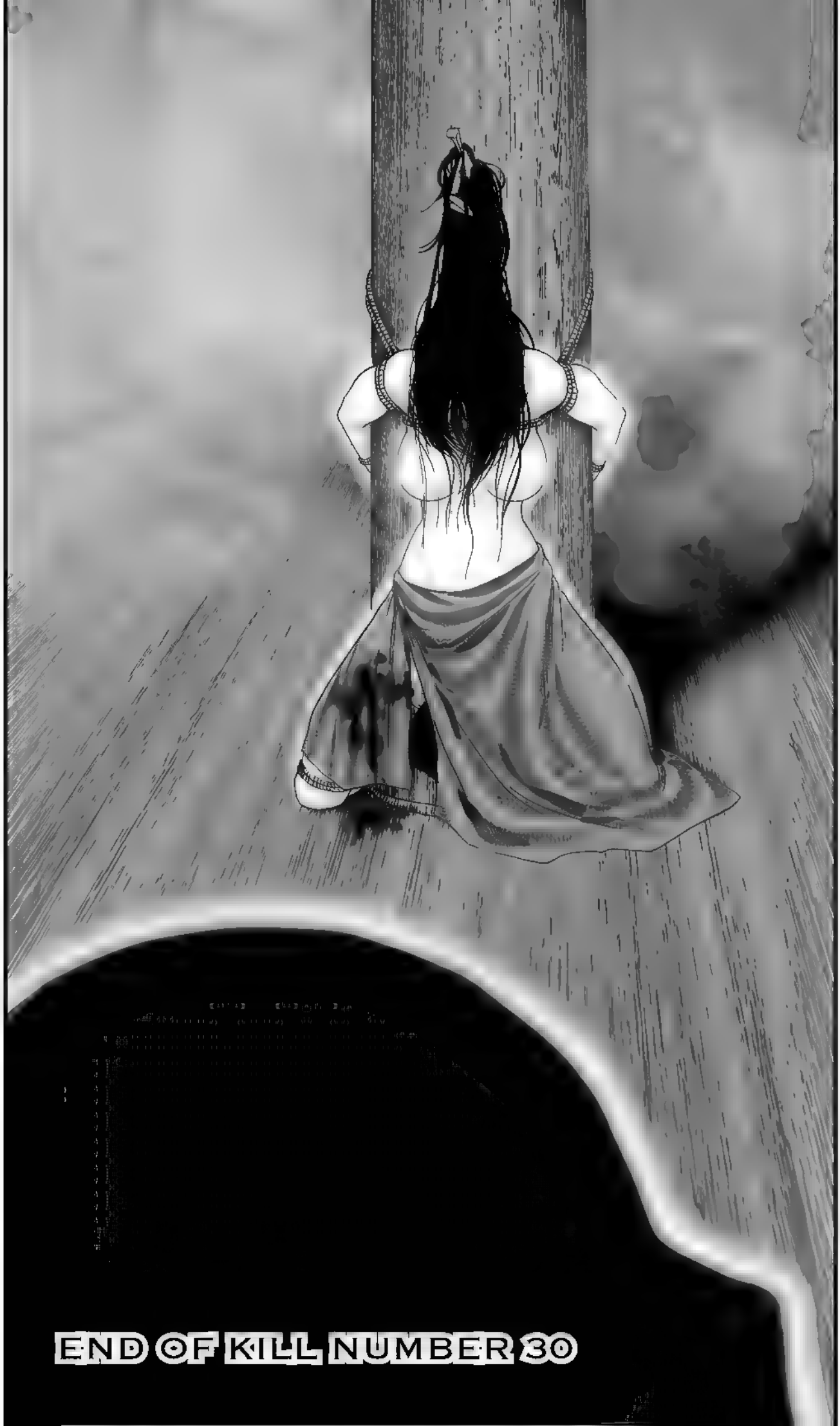
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
OBORO OF IGA...
...AND TENZEN YAKUSHIJI.
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
[KOUGA]

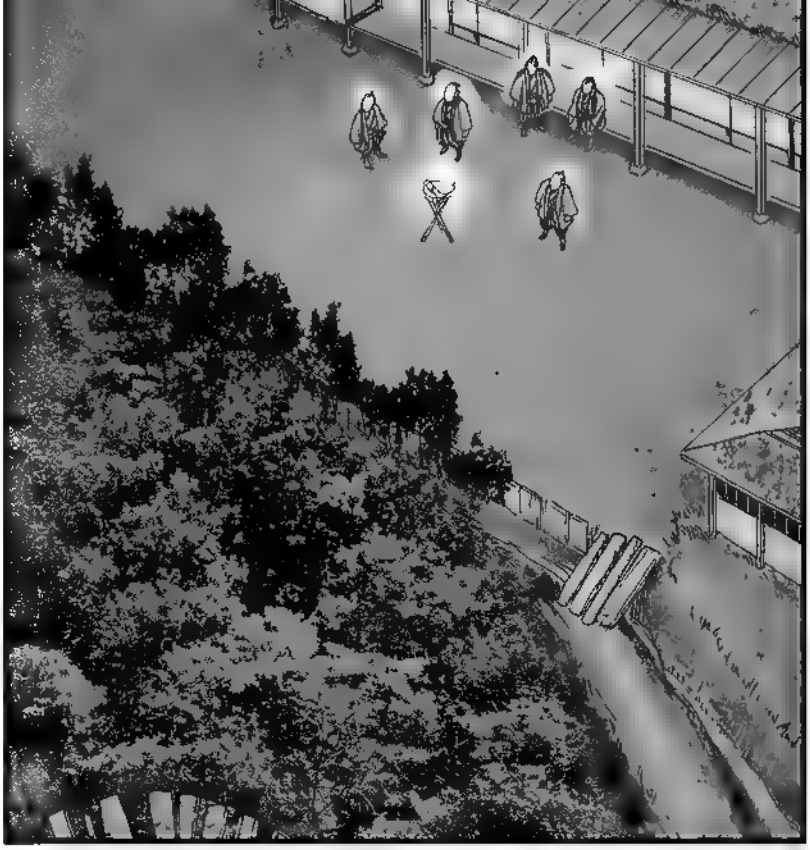

TOOE
OOI RIVER
SUN RIVER
FUKUROI
KAKEGAWA
NISSAKA
KANAYA
SHIMADA
FUJIEDA
OKABE
OFUKU PARTY

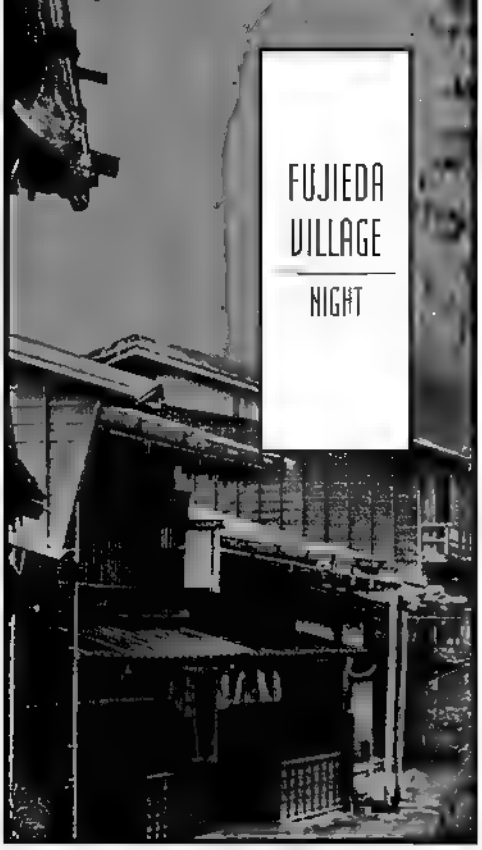
FUJIEDA
VILLAGE
NIGHT

AN
ABANDONED
TEMPLE

TSSS


END OF KILL NUMBER 30




FUJIEDA
VILLAGE
NIGHT

AN
ABAN-
DONED
TEMPLE

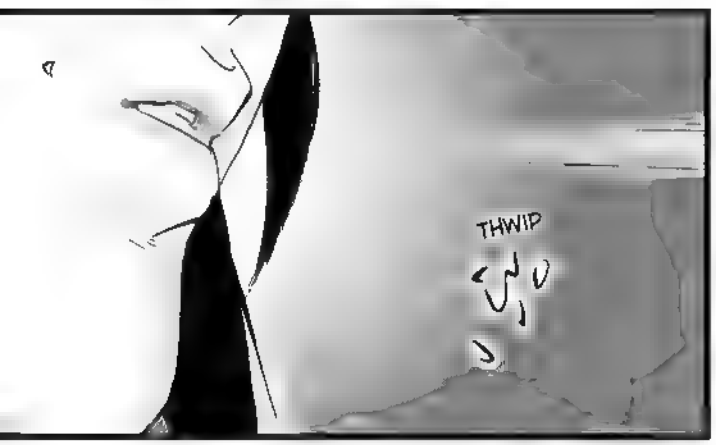
.....

AN INN
BEHIND
THE
MOUN-
TAIN

KILL NUMBER 31

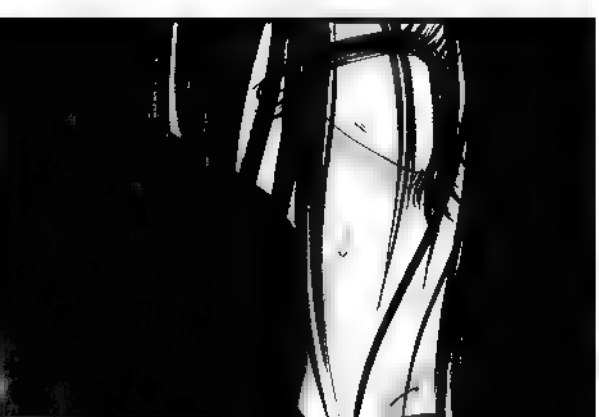
[2 VS 2 (PART 2)]

UH...
UH...


THWIP

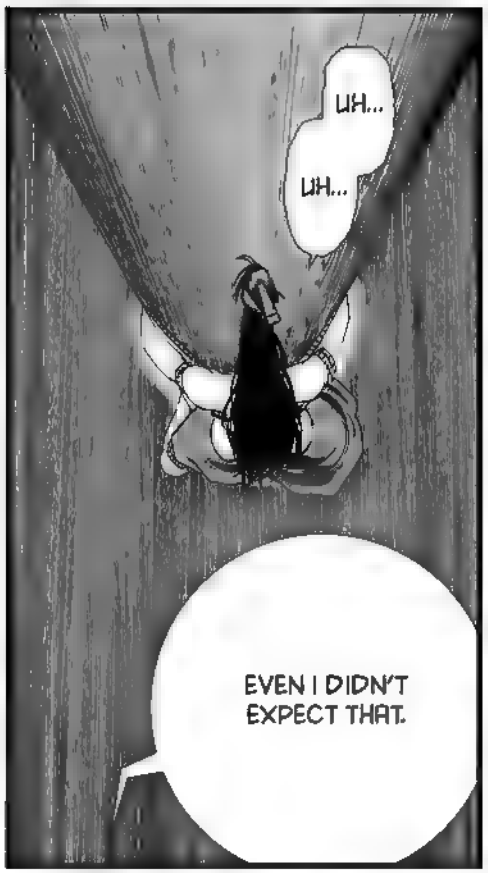
GRIN

FWICK



AAAAAHHHH!
AH...
UNGH...
AAHHH!
.....

GENNOSUKE STILL HASN'T COME, KAGEROU.
HAHH
HAHH


UH...
UH...
EVEN I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.

WELL...
WHO WOULD'VE IMAGINED A NINJA WITH POISONOUS BREATH?

AAAHHH!
YNGH

THWIP

HEH...AS OBORO-SAMA ALWAYS SAYS...
...HAVE TO FIGHT LIKE THIS.
IT'S A SHAME THAT THE IGA AND THE KOUGA...
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH

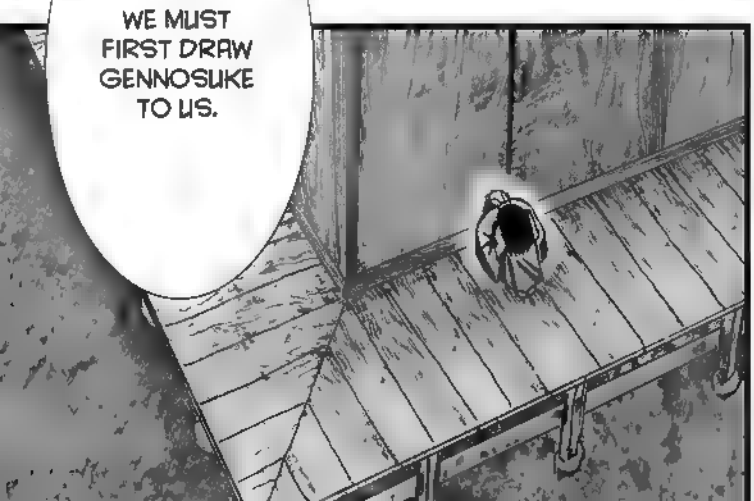
PLEASE, JUST...
...KILL ME.

IF WE WEREN'T AT WAR, I WOULD GLADLY SLEEP WITH YOU AGAIN, KAGEROU. BEING DEAD FOR A DAY OR TWO...
...IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY... HEH, HEH.

DON'T WORRY...YOU'LL BE DEAD BY MORNING.
THESE PINS ARE SOAKED IN A SPECIAL POISON THAT CAUSES INTENSE PAIN.
WHAT'S THE RUSH, KAGEROU?

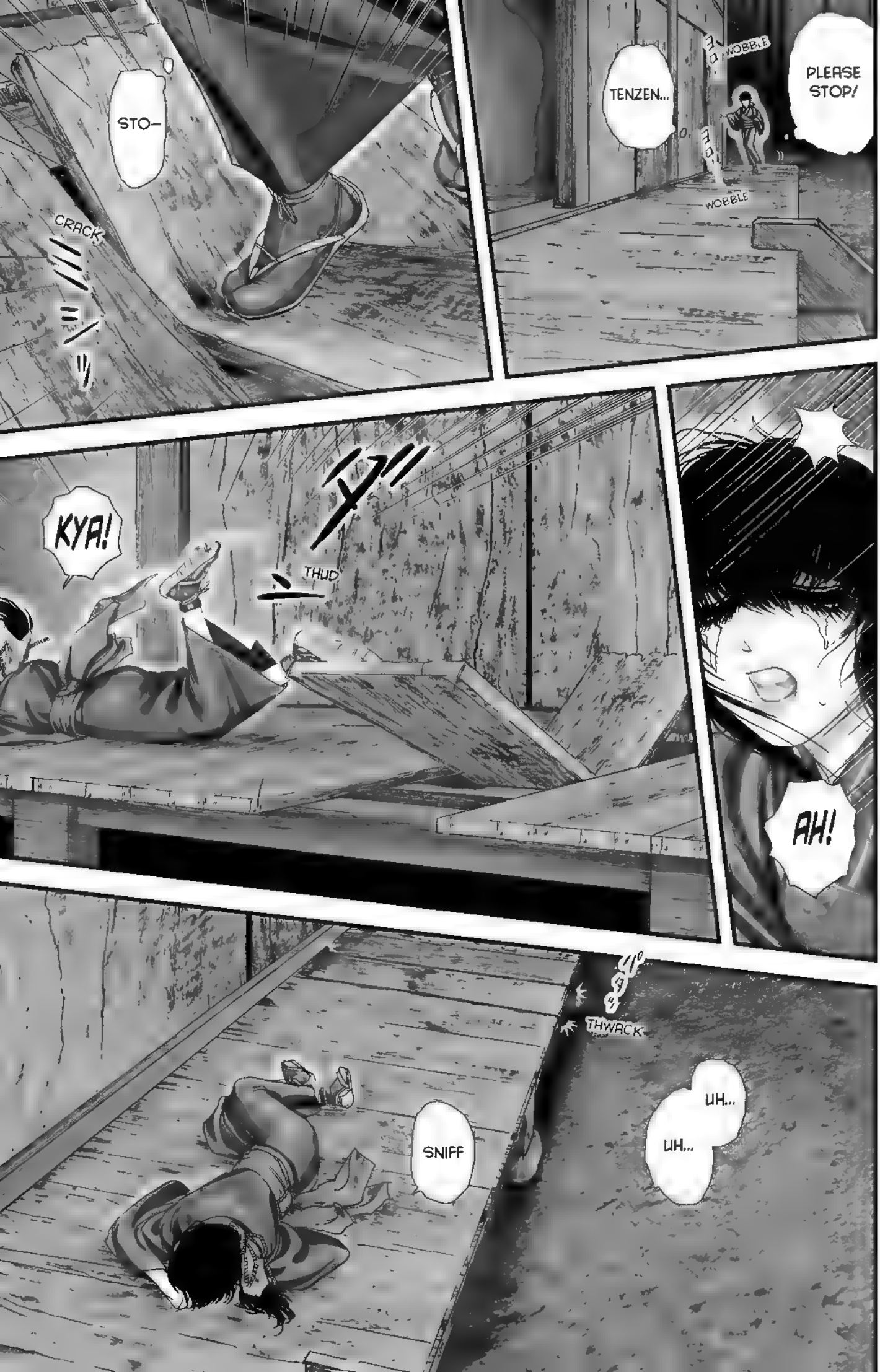
...WE'LL TAKE CARE OF GENNOSUKE KOUGA FIRST.
WE'LL REACH SUNPU TOMORROW, BUT HOPEFULLY...
THERE ARE ANOTHER 18 KILOMETERS BETWEEN HERE AND SUNPU.

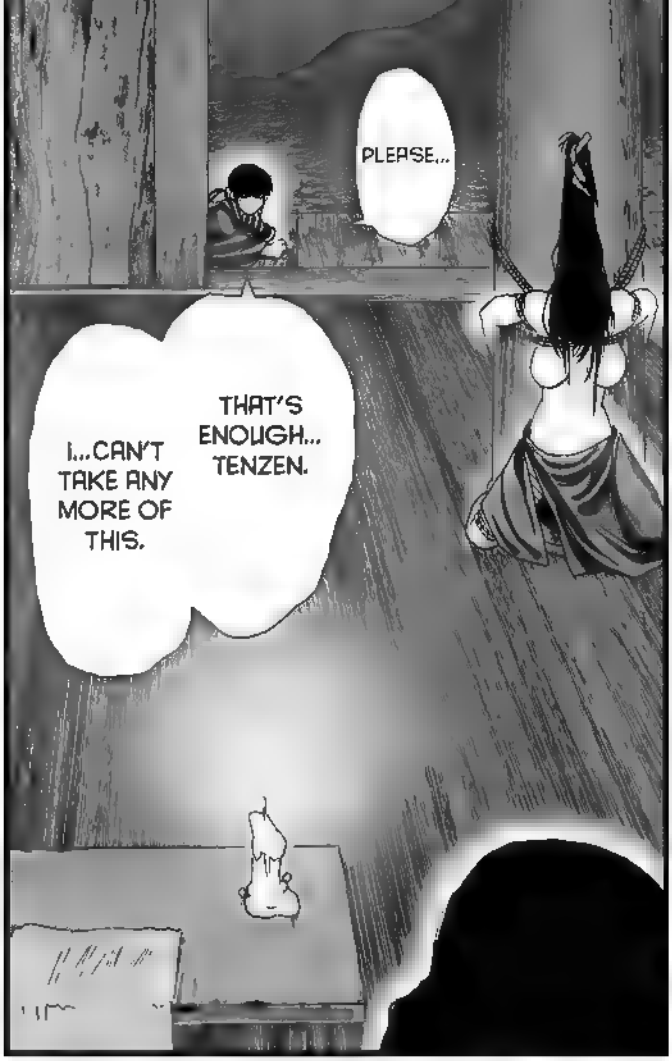
IN ORDER TO DO THAT...


WE MUST FIRST DRAW GENNOSUKE TO US.

SO THAT THE IGA CAN CLAIM TOTAL VICTORY.
WE MUST GET THE SCROLL, AND CROSS HIS NAME OFF THE LIST...

THWIP
AH!
GWAH!
AHH!
AH!
AH!
THWIP
STOP...
STOP IT!
WOBBLE
THAT'S ENOUGH.
AH!
AH!
AH!
AH!
SHIVER


STO—
CRACK
TENZEN...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
PLEASE STOP!
KYA!
THUD
AH!
SNIFF
THWACK
UH...
UH...


PLEASE...
I...CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE OF THIS.
THAT'S ENOUGH... TENZEN.

T-TENZEN...
.....

IS SOMETHING WRONG, OBORO-SAMA?

HER SCREAMS MAKE THE PERFECT BAIT.
AMONG NINJA, THERE IS NO MERCY.
HA!

UNTIE HER, AND JUST LET HER RUN FREE?
WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE I DO, OBORO-SAMA?

...JUST KILL HER. WE DON'T NEED TO PROLONG HER SUFFERING.
SHOW SOME MERCY.

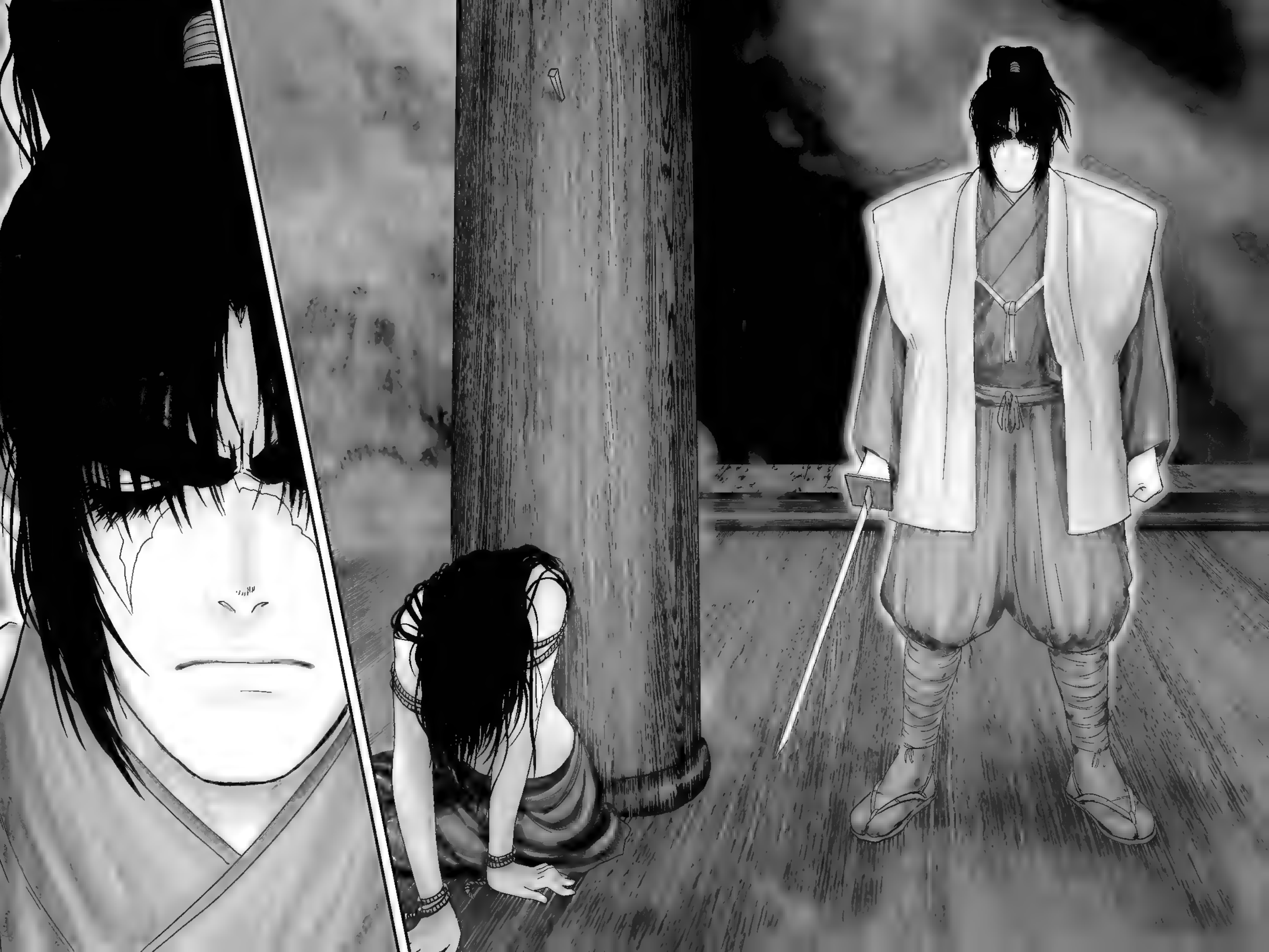
...FOR GENNOSUKE KOUGA. HE MAY BE BLIND, BUT HE'S STILL A NINJA.
BAIT?
...IS IN FUJIEDA VILLAGE, AND THAT WE'RE STAYING AT THE INN BENEATH THIS TEMPLE.
IT'S BEEN LONG ENOUGH SINCE I POSTED THAT SIGN. THE RUMORS ARE SURE TO HAVE SPREAD FAR AND WIDE BY NOW. I'M SURE GENNO-SUKE KNOWS THAT OFUKU'S PARTY...
...WILL SERVE US WELL.
HER SCREAMS OF AGONY...
UH... UH...
T-TENZEN!
URRMPH.
SWICK
FWIP
AHH... AHH.
AAAAHHH.

...LURE GENNOSUKE TO THIS TEMPLE.
HER SCREAMS WILL SURELY...
WH-WHA...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, TENZEN?
THAT IS MY PLAN, OBORO-SAMA.
YES...
YANK
AH.
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES...
YOU SEE, OBORO-SAMA...
TE-TENZEN!
THUD
KYA.

IT'S ONLY IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS...
KAGEROU'S BREATH IS AS HARMLESS AS MY OWN.
THAT IS MY THEORY...AND NOW, I'M GOING TO TEST IT.
...THAT HER BREATH TURNS TO POISON.
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S ONLY WHEN SHE'S AROUSED...
AND I JUST CAN'T AFFORD TO DIE RIGHT NOW, OBORO-SAMA...
BUT...
IF I WERE TO LIE WITH KAGEROU, THEN I WOULD SURELY DIE.
TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
TENZEN!

TENZEN!
HOW DARE YOU!
...WHILE KAGEROU WATCHES.
HEH, HEH... SO INSTEAD, I WILL LIE WITH YOU, OBORO-SAMA...
OBORO-SAMA... HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT I TOLD YOU ON THE BOAT TO MIYA?
I HAVEN'T.
THE IGA BLOODLINE CANNOT END WITH YOU.
I AM THE ONLY MAN LEFT WHO CAN BE YOUR HUSBAND!
.....

TSSS
FLICKER
TOMORROW, WE WILL ARRIVE AT SUNPU AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.
L-LET ME GO, TENZEN!
STEP
?

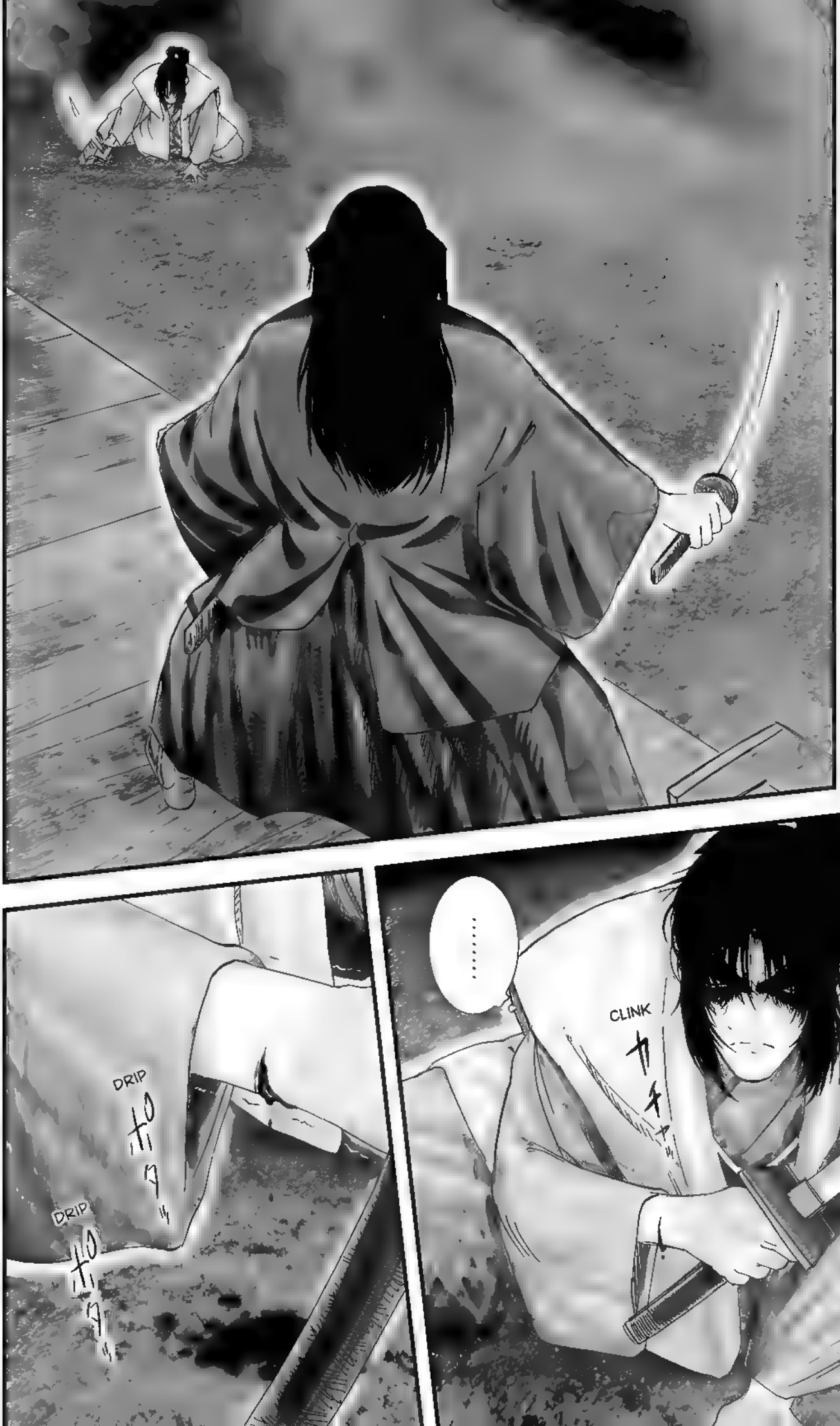


...KOUGA?
GENNOSUKE...
THAT VOICE...
IS THAT YOU...TENZEN YAKUSHIJI?
...
GENNOSUKE-SAMA?

TENZEN...
WHY ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?
YOUR EYES... IT SEEMS YOU STILL CAN'T SEE, EH, GENNOSUKE?
HEH, HEH.
カキッ
WHY?
DID YOU THINK I WOULD DIE BEFORE KILLING YOU?
FWOOSH
SCHWING

SWISH
FWING
STEP
DRIP
URRMPH.

FWOOSH
DID I SCARE YOU, GENNOSUKE?
!
STEP


.....
CLINK
カチャ
DRIP
ポト
DRIP
ポト

YOU'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD, GENNOSUKE.
THE BATTLE ENDS HERE.
WHOOSH
'FWISH'
STEP

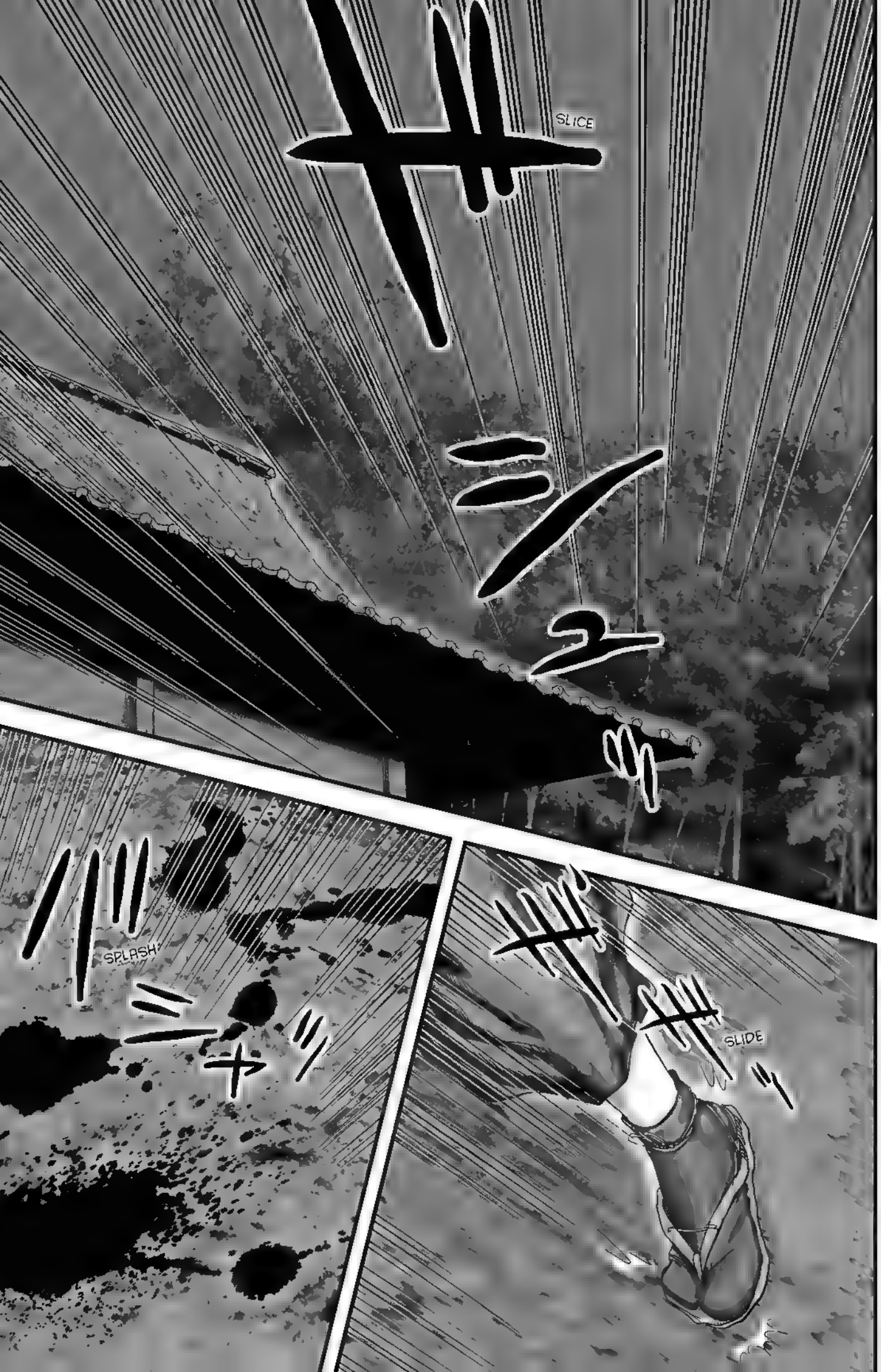
?

CRACK

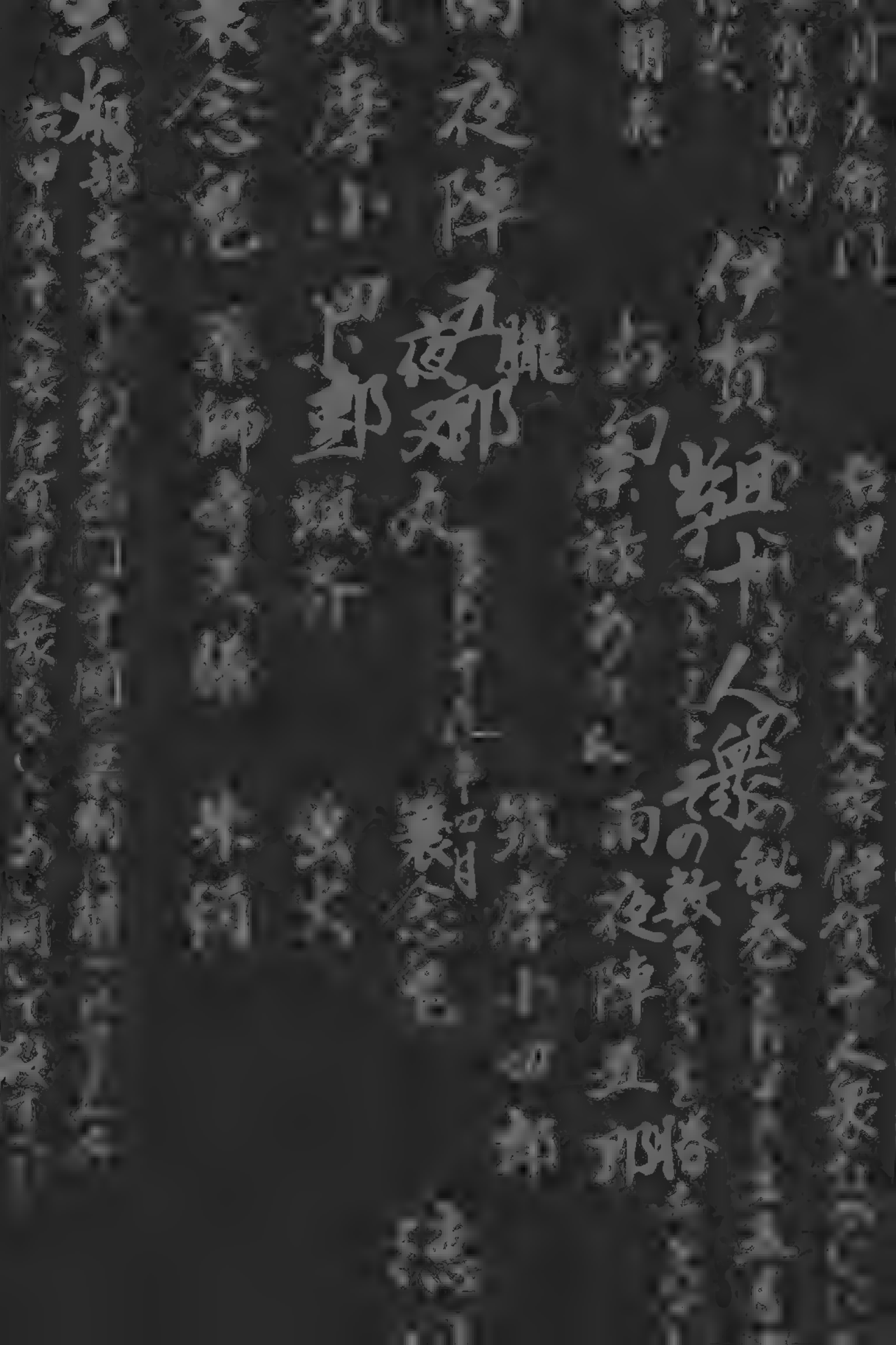
!

WAHHH!

AAAHH!
WOBBLE
ヨロッ


SLICE
SPLASH
SLIDE

END OF KILL NUMBER 31



TH-THAT SOUNDED LIKE...
GO TELL OFUKU-SAMA!
AAAHHHH!
?
...SUKEEEE...
GEN...NO...
WOBBLE

KILL NUMBER 32

[2 VS 2 (PART 3)]

DRIP

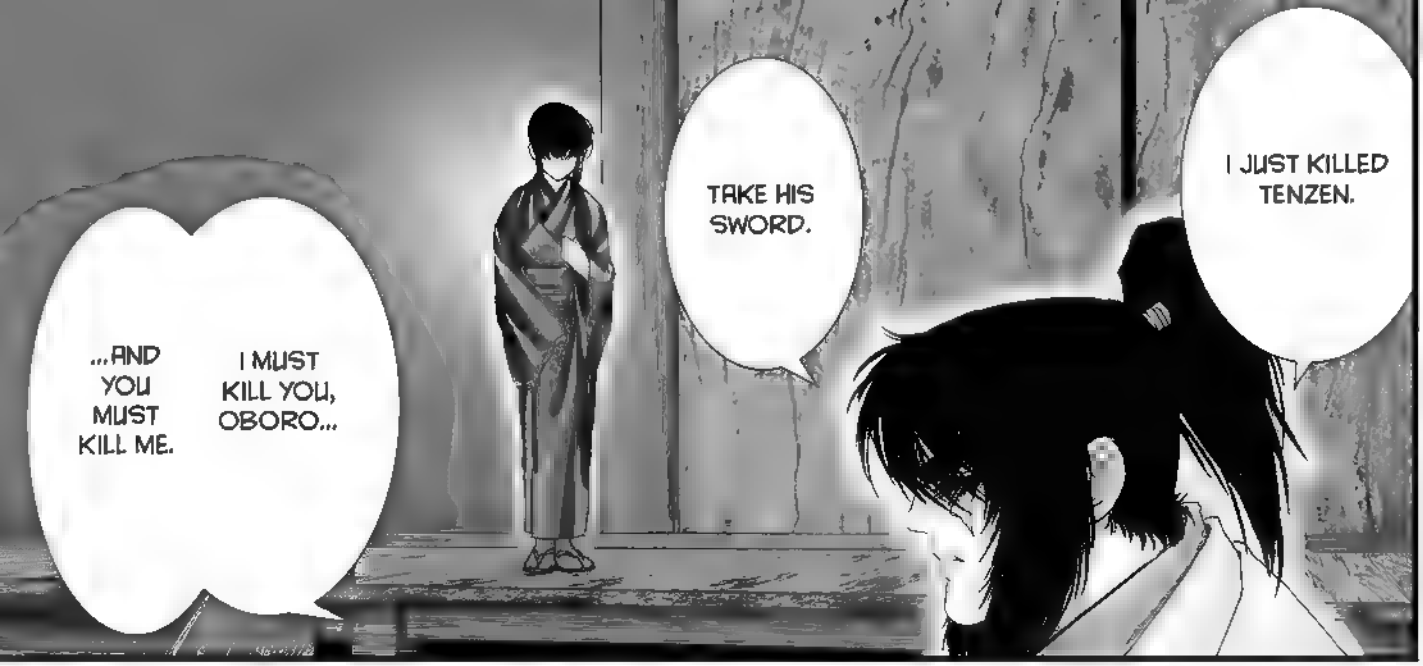
SPLATTER

WOBBLE
ヴ〃
ラ
ッ
PLINK
ｲﾚ?
CLINK
カチャ〃
SCHWICK

.....
THUD
ARE YOU THERE, OBORO?

YES, I'M HERE... GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

NO...
I HAVE NO SWORD.
IS...YOUR SWORD DRAWN?


I JUST KILLED TENZEN.
TAKE HIS SWORD.
I MUST KILL YOU, OBORO...
...AND YOU MUST KILL ME.

WHAT?

PERHAPS YOU WILL DEFEAT ME.
MY EYES ARE SEALED SHUT.

...AS ARE MY OWN.

WH-WHY, OBORO?
WHY?
WOBBLE

OBORO...
YOU...
I COULDN'T STAND TO WATCH THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE IGA AND THE KOUGA MANJIDANI SECT.
SO WHEN I LEFT TSUBAGAKURE...

PLEASE, GENNOSUKE-SAMA...

!
LET ME DIE BY YOUR HAND.

SINCE SHE CAN'T AVOID THIS BATTLE...
OBORO WANTS TO...

I WANT TO DIE BY YOUR HAND.
GENNOSUKE-SAMA...
OBORO...

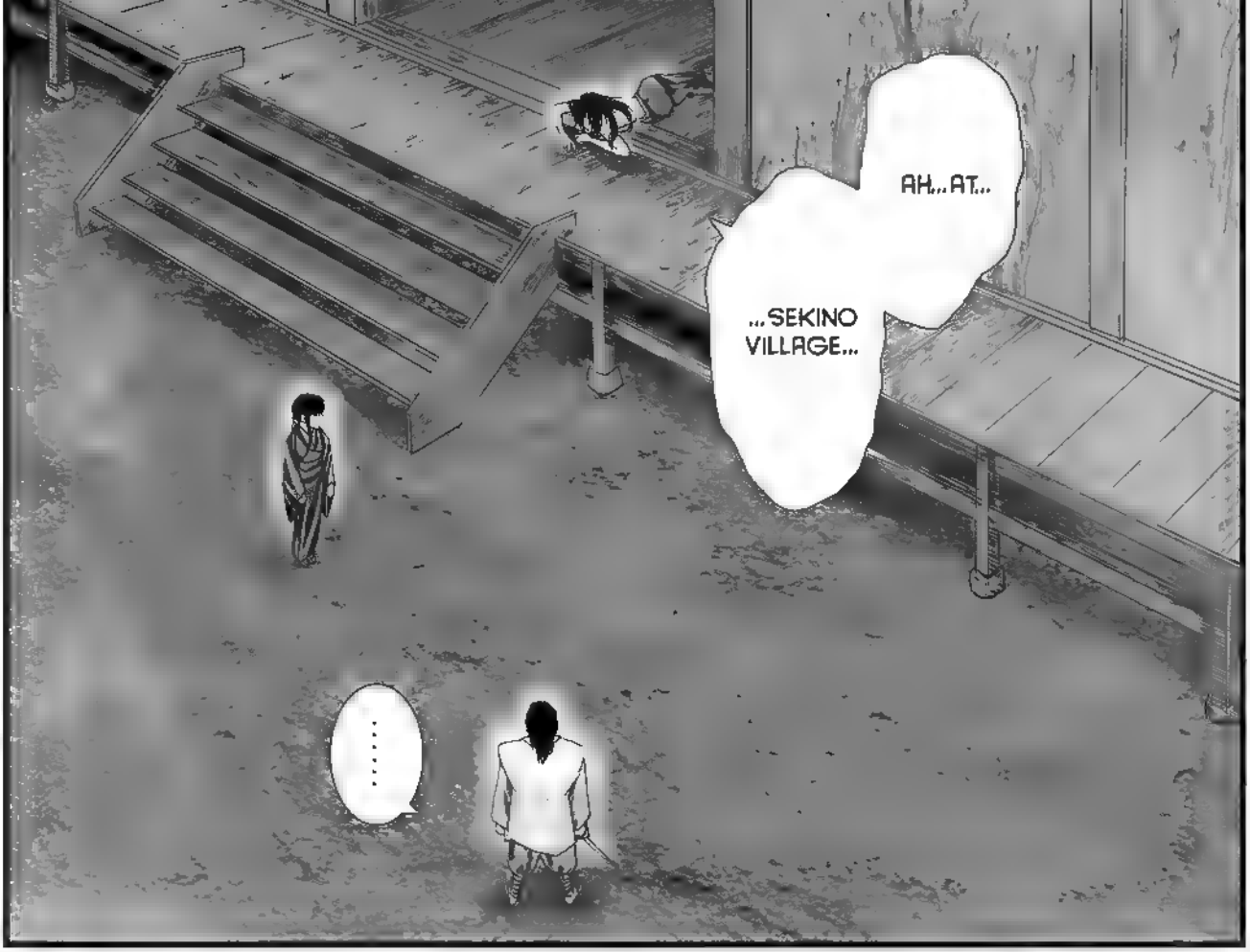
OBORO...

I CANNOT KILL YOU...
SWIP

I...
...CANNOT KILL YOU, OBORO.

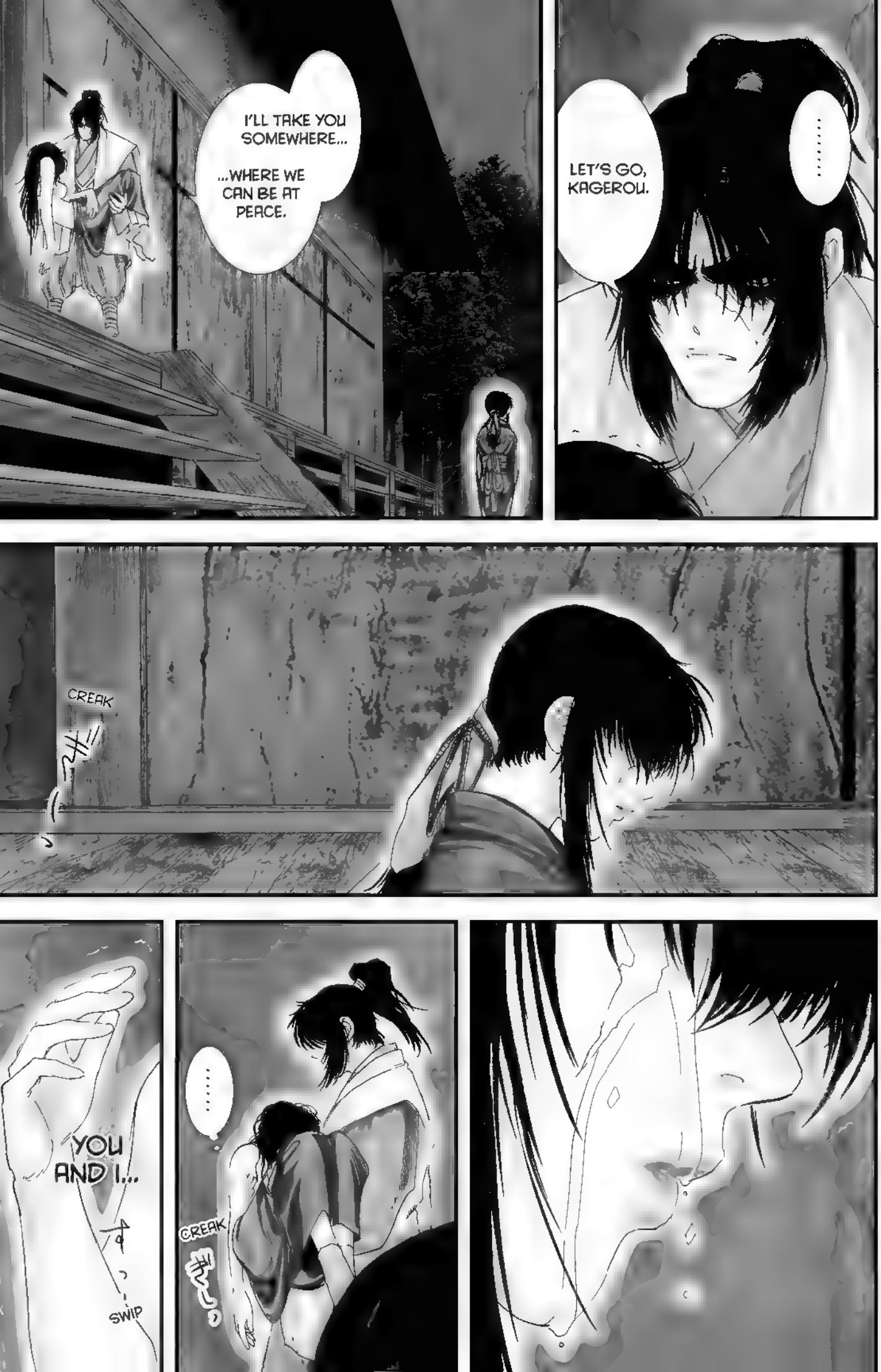
SLIDE
WHY...

WHY CAN'T YOU KILL HER?
GENNOSUKE-SAMA?
!
KAGEROU!


AH...AT...
...SEKINO VILLAGE...
.....

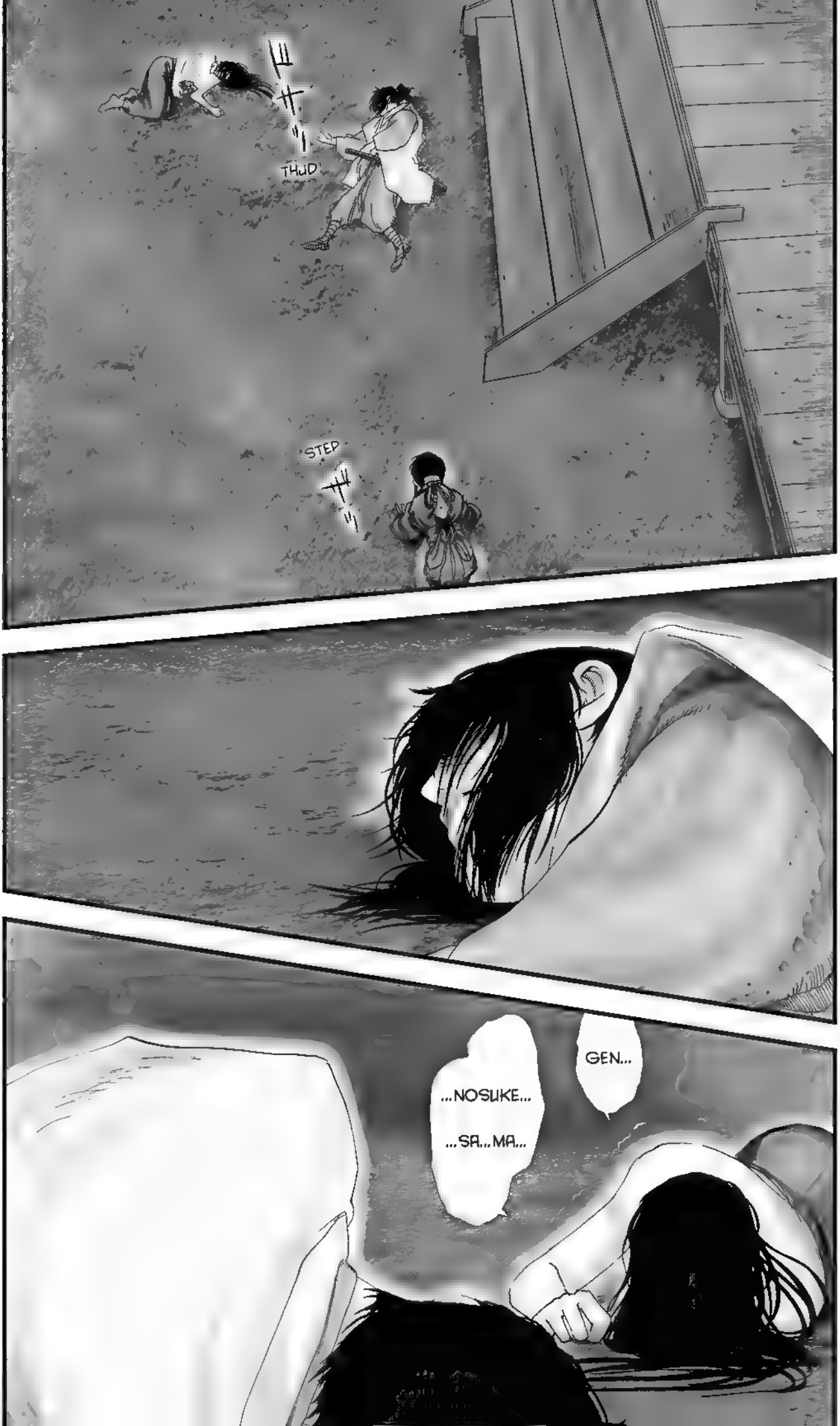
YOU SWORE TO ME...
...THAT YOU WOULD SLAY OBORO.
GENNOSUKE-SAMA...ARE YOU GOING TO...
...BETRAY...
...ME...

...AND...
...THE ENTIRE KOUGA CLAN?
P-PLEASE...
...BEFORE... BEFORE I DIE...
HAHH
HAHH
LET ME CROSS OBORO'S NAME...
...FROM THE BATTLE SCROLL IN HER OWN BLOOD.
KAGEROU.
AH...

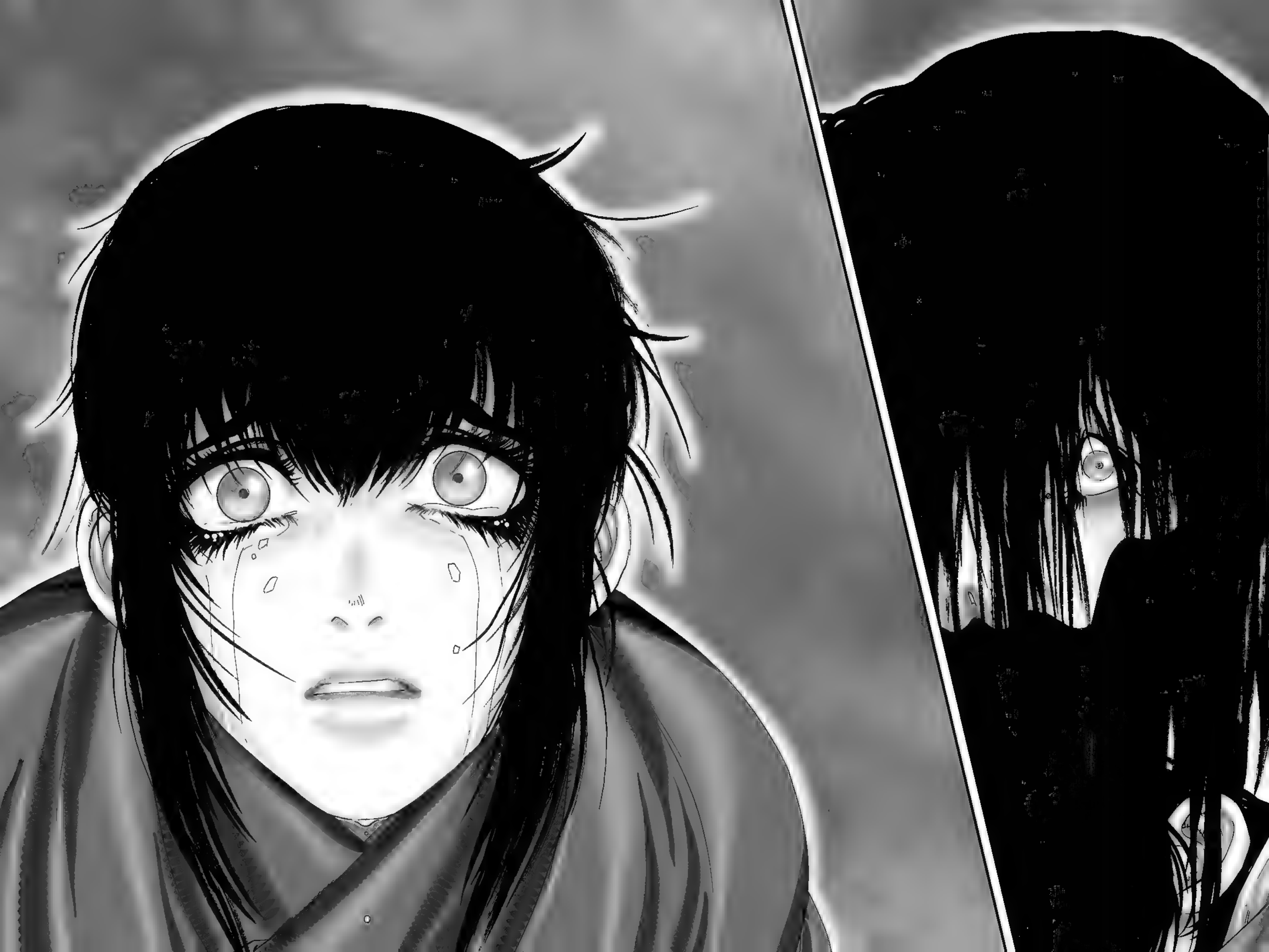

I'LL TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE...
...WHERE WE CAN BE AT PEACE.
.....
LET'S GO, KAGEROU.
CREAK
YOU AND I...
SWIP
.....
CREAK

...PEACE...
...WON'T FIND...
...ANYWHERE.

HAHH
!
URRRMPH
WOBBLE
?
GENNOSUKE-SAMA?
THUNK

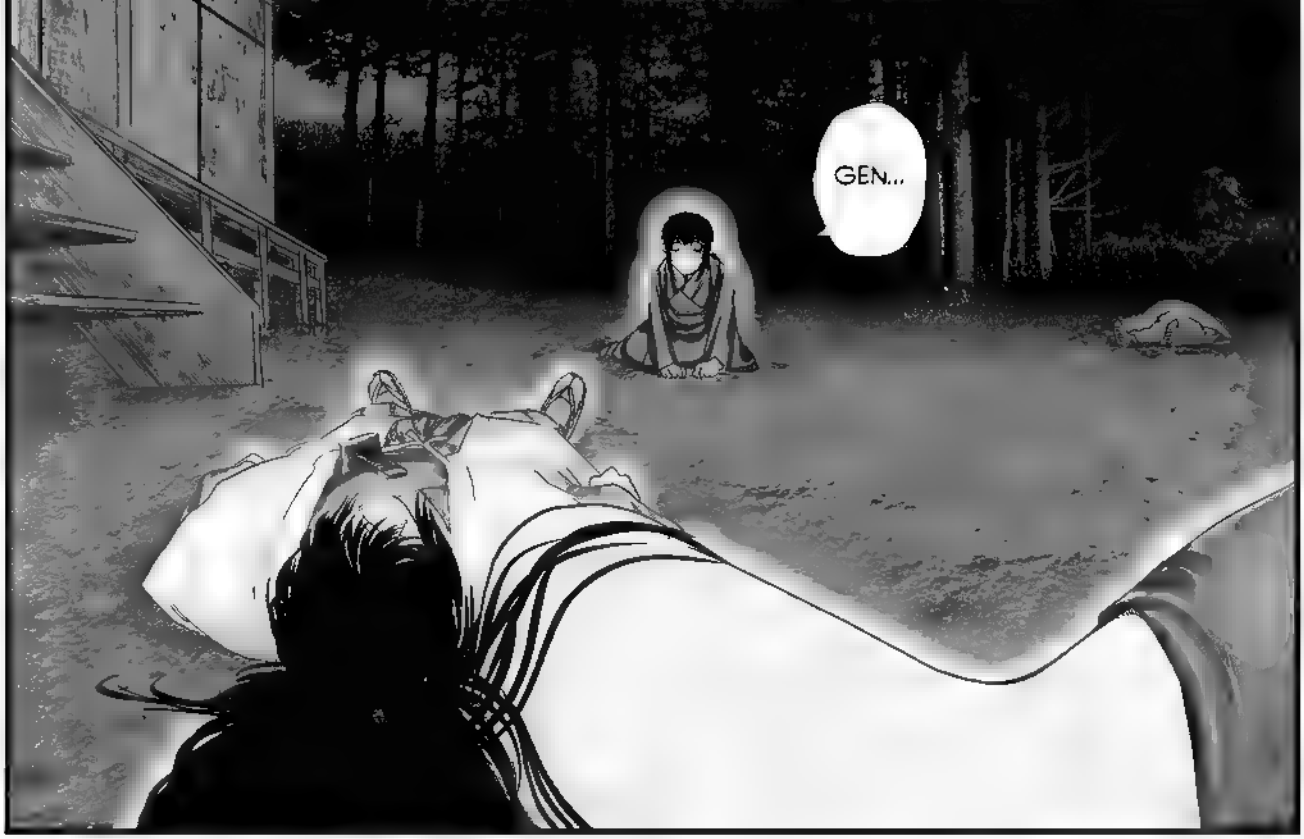

THUD
STEP
GEN...
...NOSUKE...
...SA...MA...

THEN...
IF I MUST GO TO HELL...
I WANT YOU THERE...
...WITH ME...
GENNOSUKE-SAMA!



HAHH
MY POISONOUS BREATH..
.....

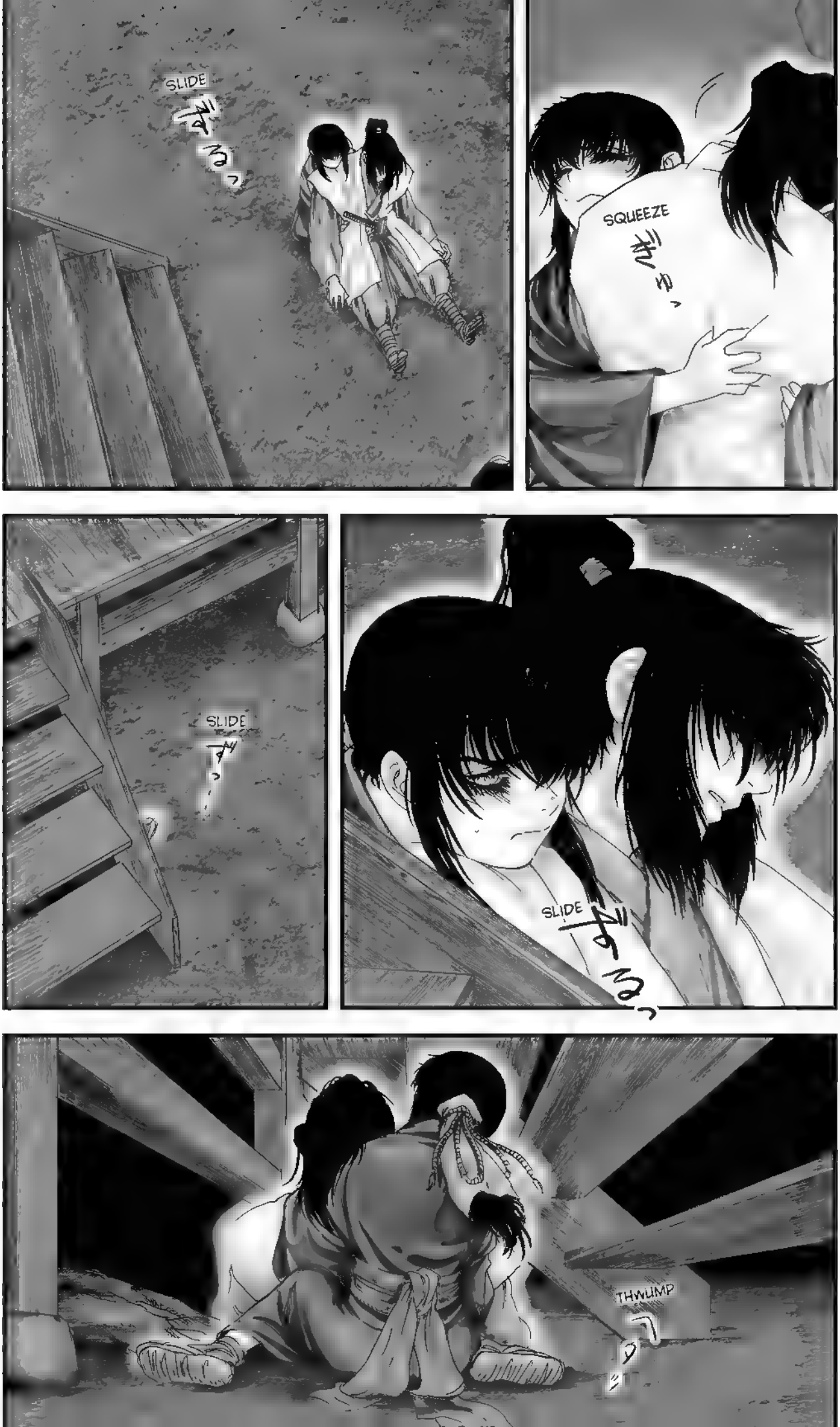
IT'S GONE...
THUD

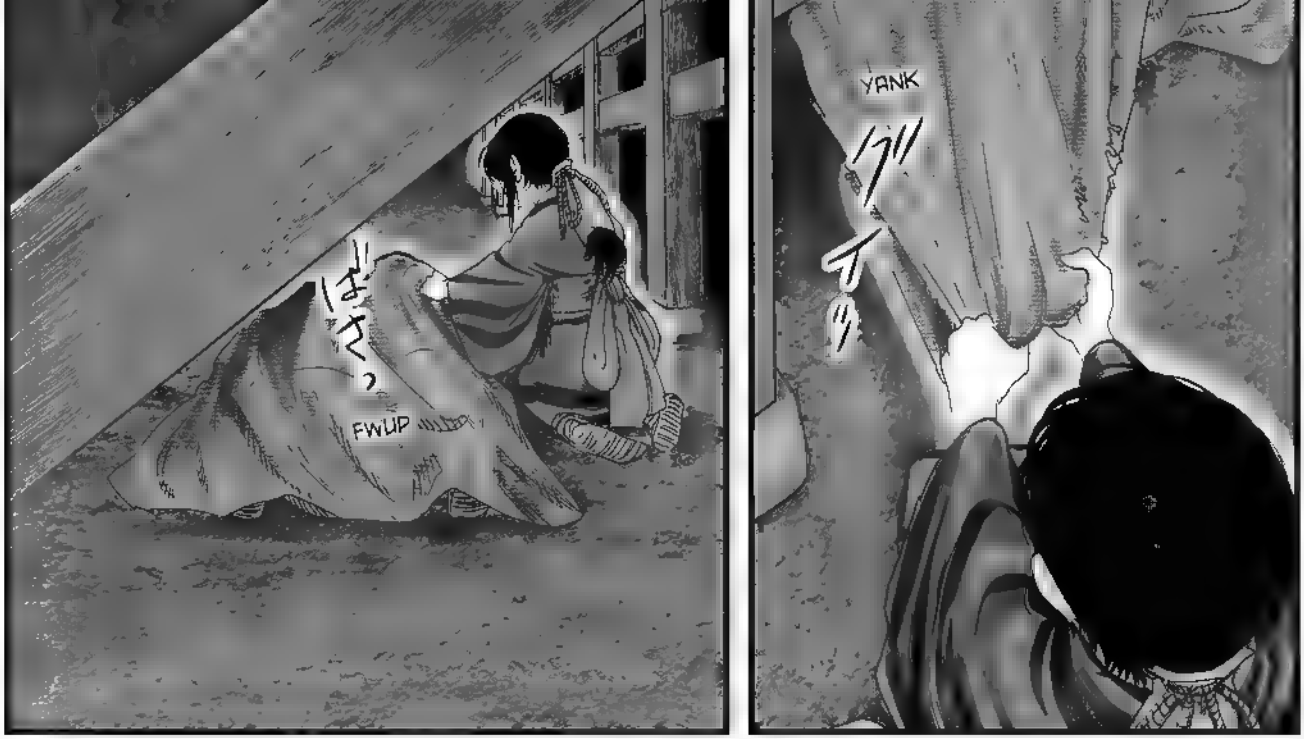

GEN...

GENNOSUKE-
SAMA!

GENNOSUKE-
SAMA...

HE'S STILL BREATHING.
.....
CHATTER
CHATTER
!
.....

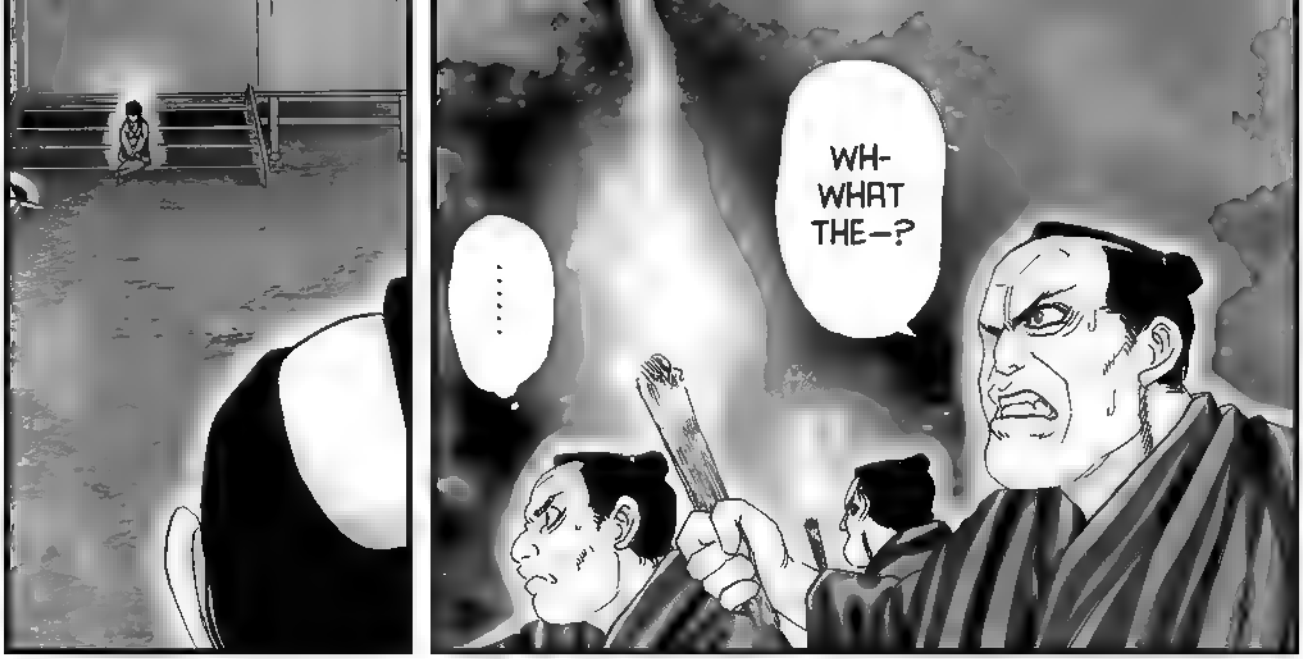

SLIDE
ずるっ
SQUEEZE
ぎゅっ
SLIDE
すっ
SLIDE
すべるっ
THWUMP
ドン


ばさっ
FWUP
YANK
グイッ

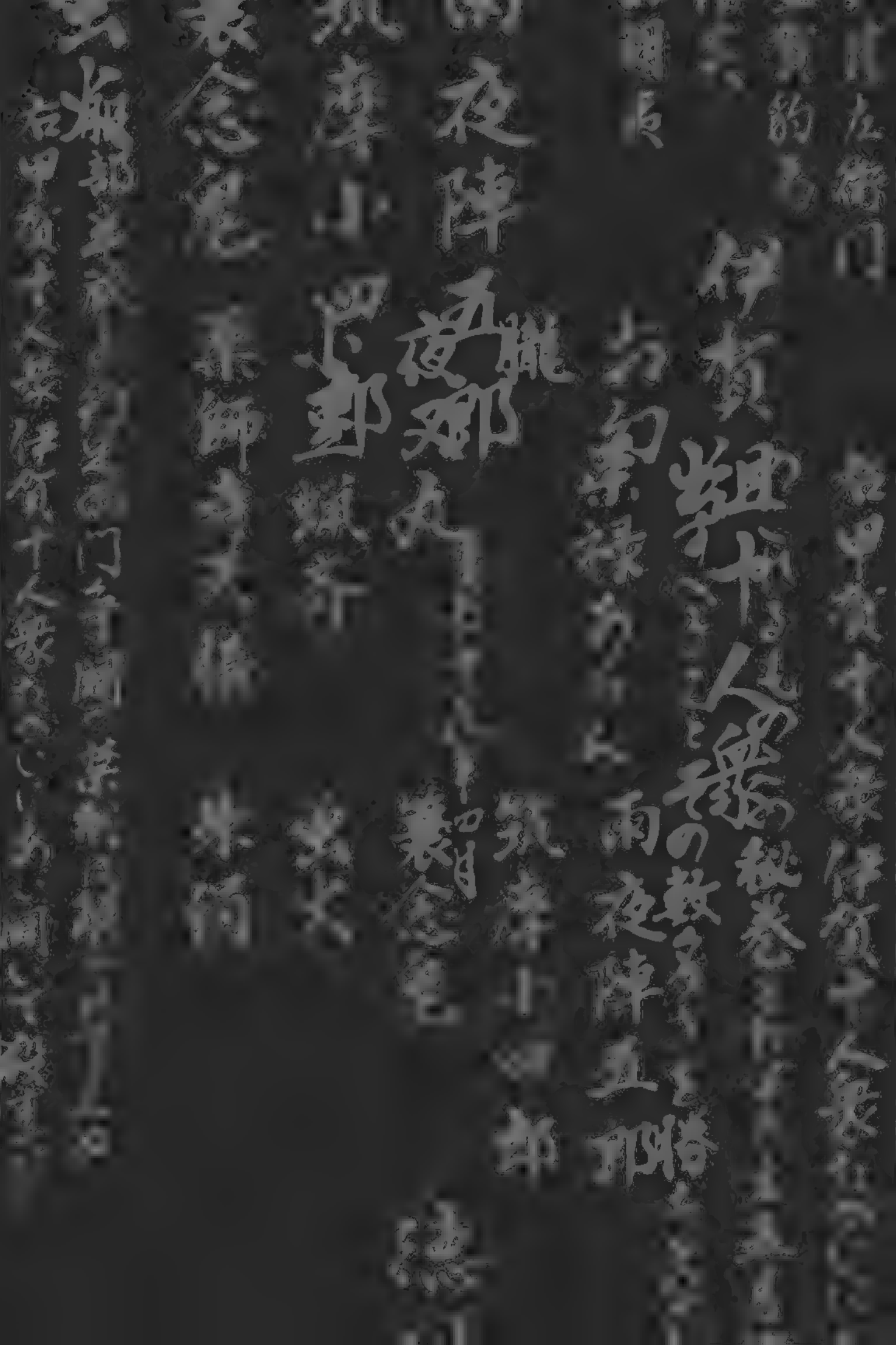
GENNOSUKE-SAMA...
RUB

SWIP

FWOOSH
WHOOSH
HEY!
STEP


WH-
WHAT
THE-?
.....

END OF KILL NUMBER 32



WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
.....
WH-WHAT THE—?

STEP

TE-TENZEN-DONO!

TENZEN-DONO IS DEAD!

IT MUST'VE BEEN THE KOUGA CLAN!

GENNOSUKE KOUGA MUST BE HERE!

KILL NUMBER 33

[1 VS 2]

JUST CALM DOWN!
OKAY!
STEP
B-BUT OFUKU-SAMA...
HE SPOKE OF HIS OWN POWERS.
YOU WERE ALL THERE LAST NIGHT.
TENZEN-DONO IS AN IMMORTAL NINJA.

NOW BEHOLD TENZEN'S POWER OF IMMORTALITY.
QUICKLY, SOMEBODY HOLD UP TENZEN-DONO'S BODY.
HOLD HIS SEVERED HEAD TO HIS NECK!
.....
.....
.....
WHAT'RE YOU AFRAID OF?
DO IT NOW.... OR ALL OF US WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
Y-YES, MADAM!
HURRY! TAKECHIYO'S DESTINY IS AT STAKE AS IS YOUR OWN.

.....

!

.....

.....

...

UNG...

...BO...

UNGH...

...ROOOO...

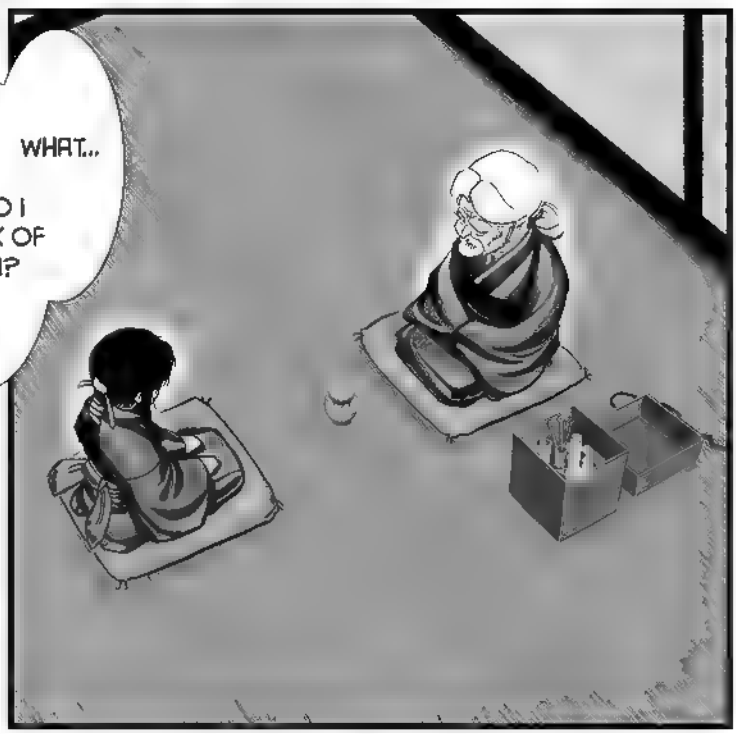
URM.

UR...
URMMM...

TELL ME OBORO...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TENZEN YAKUSHIJI?
OGEN
[IGA]

OBORO...

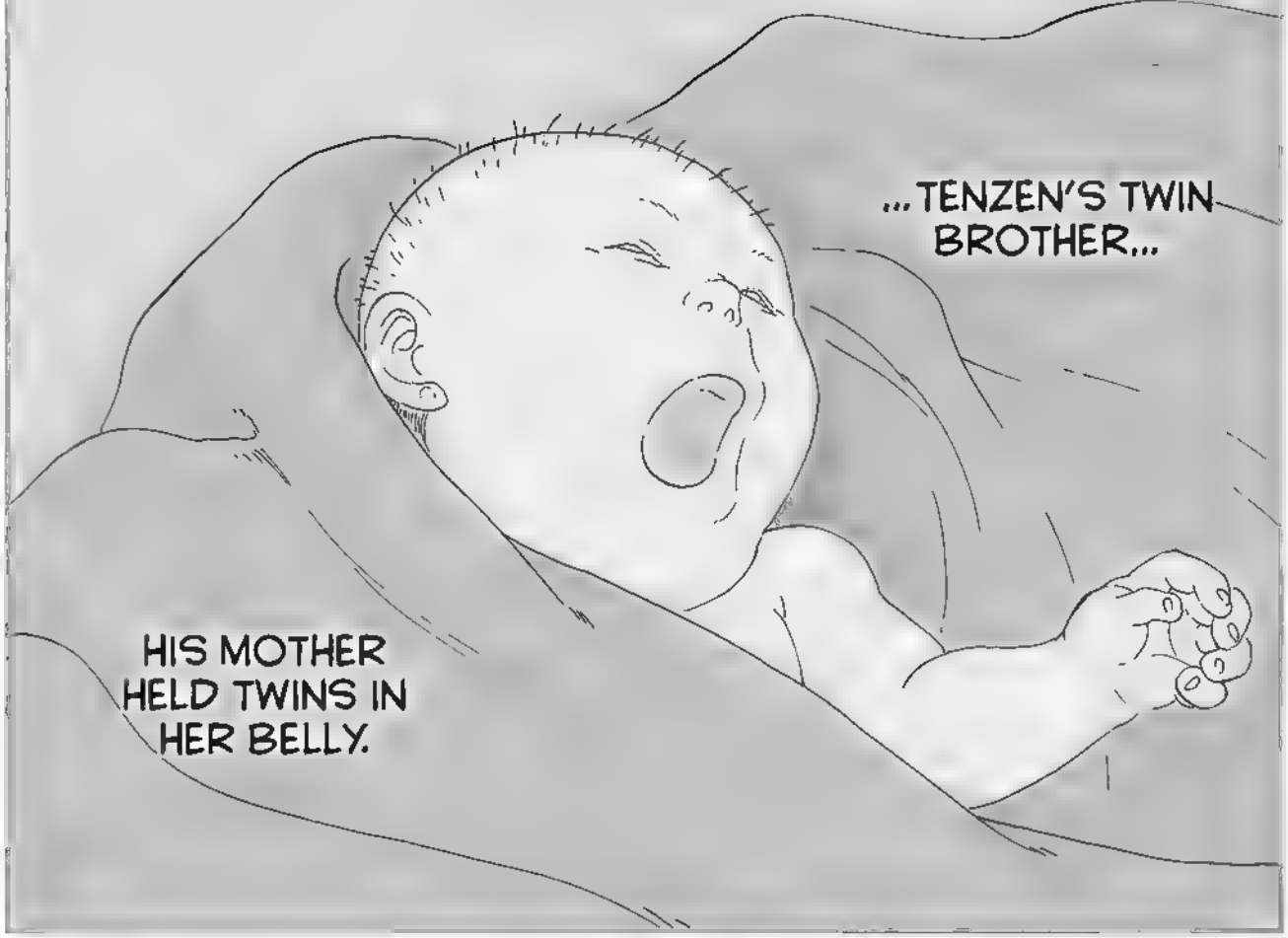
HOW DO YOU MEAN?


WHAT...
...DO I THINK OF HIM?

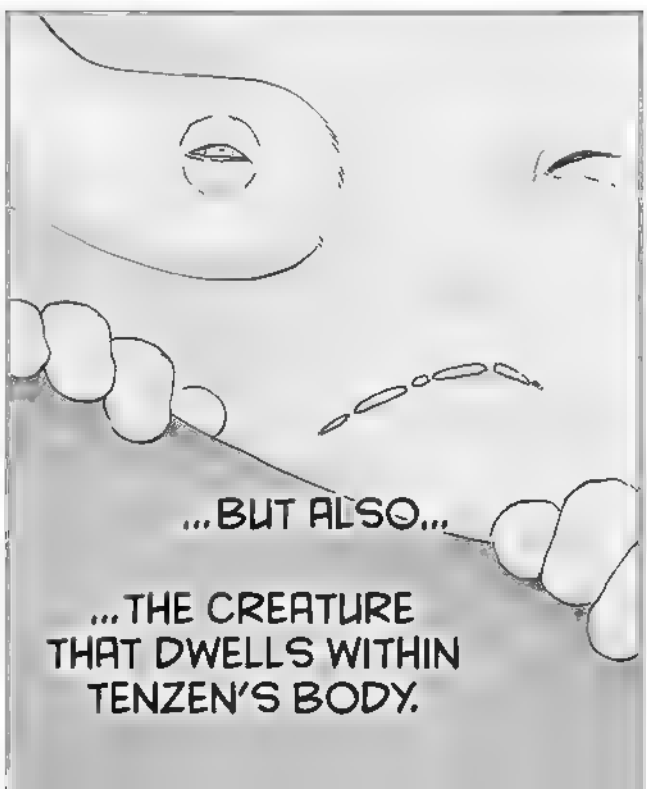
TENZEN SEEMS TO THINK...
...THAT HE WILL ONE DAY LEAD THE IGA CLAN...
YOU SEE...
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I THOUGHT THAT TENZEN MIGHT MAKE A FITTING SON-IN-LAW, BUT...

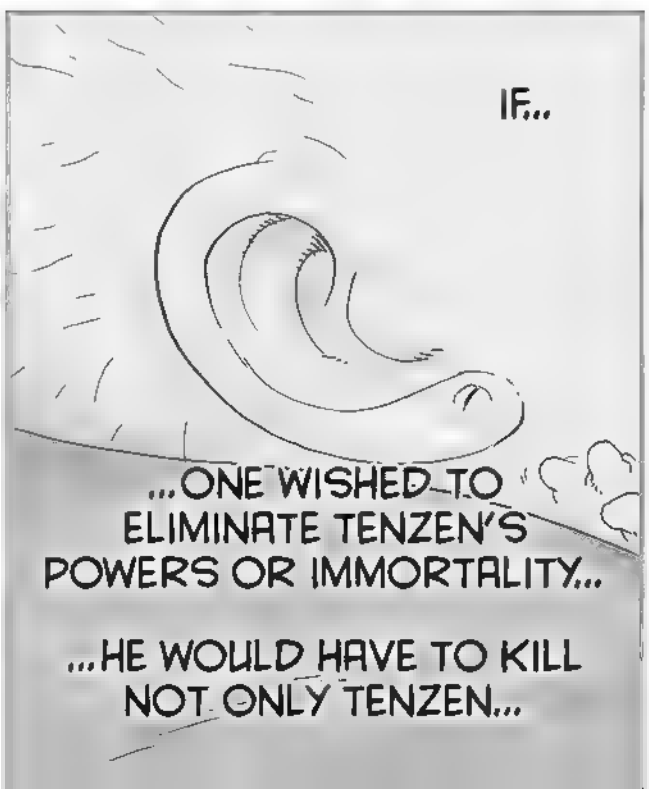
AH...
WELL...

HIS POWERS COME NOT FROM HIS OWN SPIRIT, BUT FROM SOME-THING THAT LIVES WITHIN HIS BODY.
BUT ONE COULD HARDLY CALL THOSE TENZEN'S POWERS.
.....
PERHAPS HE PLACES A BIT TOO MUCH FAITH IN HIS POWERS OF IMMORTALITY.
INDEED.
I SUPPOSE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
SOME-THING THAT LIVES WITHIN HIS BODY?
...WAS ACTUALLY...
YOU SEE, THE CREATURE WHO LIVES INSIDE OF TENZEN...


HIS MOTHER HELD TWINS IN HER BELLY.
...TENZEN'S TWIN BROTHER...

BUT WHEN THEY WERE BORN...
THEY BECAME ONE.


...BUT ALSO...
...THE CREATURE THAT DWELLS WITHIN TENZEN'S BODY.


IF...
...ONE WISHED TO ELIMINATE TENZEN'S POWERS OR IMMORTALITY...
...HE WOULD HAVE TO KILL NOT ONLY TENZEN...

GRAND-MOTHER?
UH...
.....
YES...THE CREATURE IN TENZEN'S BODY.
I GAVE OBORO THE SEVEN DAYS OF DARKNESS POTION IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE DESTINY OF THE IGA CLAN, BUT...
OH DEAR...
I'VE RAMBLED ON A BIT TOO MUCH...
IT SEEMS...
AH. WELL...
AHH...
KILLING TENZEN YAKUSHIJI IS NO EASY TASK. KEEP THAT IN MIND, OBORO.
IN OTHER WORDS...WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS THAT...
HERE I AM TELLING HER HOW TO ELIMINATE ONE OF HER OWN COMRADES.
...?

I GROW MORE AND MORE SENILE EACH DAY.
DEAR ME...

GRAND-MOTHER...
GRAND-MOTHER...
.....
UNG...
UNGH...

O...
OBO...
...RO...
.....

SPLAT

……

SHIVER

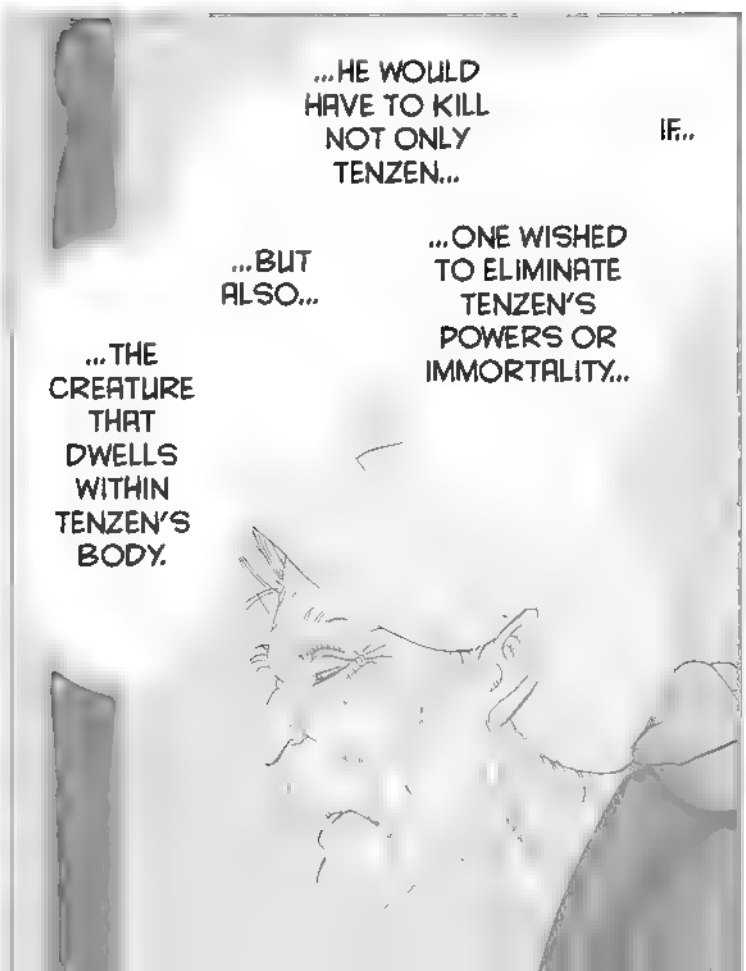
ガタ

SHIVER

ガタ

S-SOME-
THING'S
NOT RIGHT.
T-TENZEN-
DONO?
G-GRANDMOTHER...

...THE
CREATURE
THAT
DWELLS
WITHIN
TENZEN'S
BODY...
...BUT ALSO...


...HE WOULD
HAVE TO KILL
NOT ONLY
TENZEN...
IF...
...BUT
ALSO...
...ONE WISHED
TO ELIMINATE
TENZEN'S
POWERS OR
IMMORTALITY...
...THE
CREATURE
THAT
DWELLS
WITHIN
TENZEN'S
BODY.

GENNOSUKE...

...KOUGAAAA...

HE'S HIDING BEHIND OBORO...

...BEHIND THE...

...STAIRS...

FWAH
UNG...
UNG... GGG...

LING...
THWATT
WAH!
SCH
...!!

PLUNK
WAH.
WAH.
THUD
.....

O-
OBORO...
.....
C-
COULD...
...HE...
TRULY BE...
...DEAD?

O-OBORO... DID TENZEN SPEAK THE TRUTH?
AHH...HAS YOUR...
...VISION FINALLY RETURNED?
YES, IT'S TRUE. GENNOSUKE KOUGA IS HIDDEN BEHIND THESE STAIRS, BUT...
AHH.
EXCELLENT!

KILLING...
...AN UNCONSCIOUS KOUGA NINJA...
...WILL BRING NO HONOR TO THE IGA CLAN!

HMM...

.....
THOSE DON'T SOUND LIKE THE WORDS OF A NINJA.

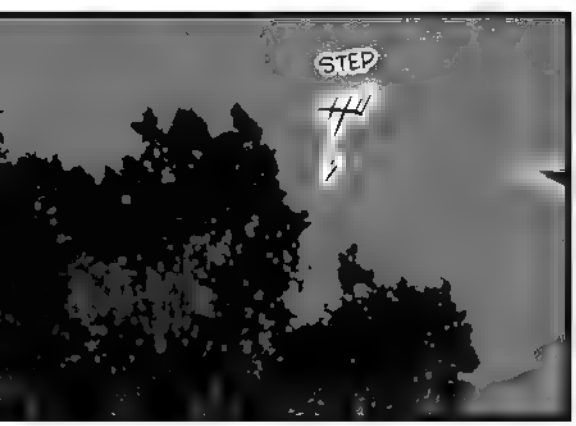
I SEE... WELL THEN...
WE SHALL WAIT UNTIL YOU TWO CAN HAVE A FAIR FIGHT.

YES, MADAM!
WE MUST CONTACT HANZO HATTORI IMMEDIATELY.
SOMEONE GET A HORSE READY!

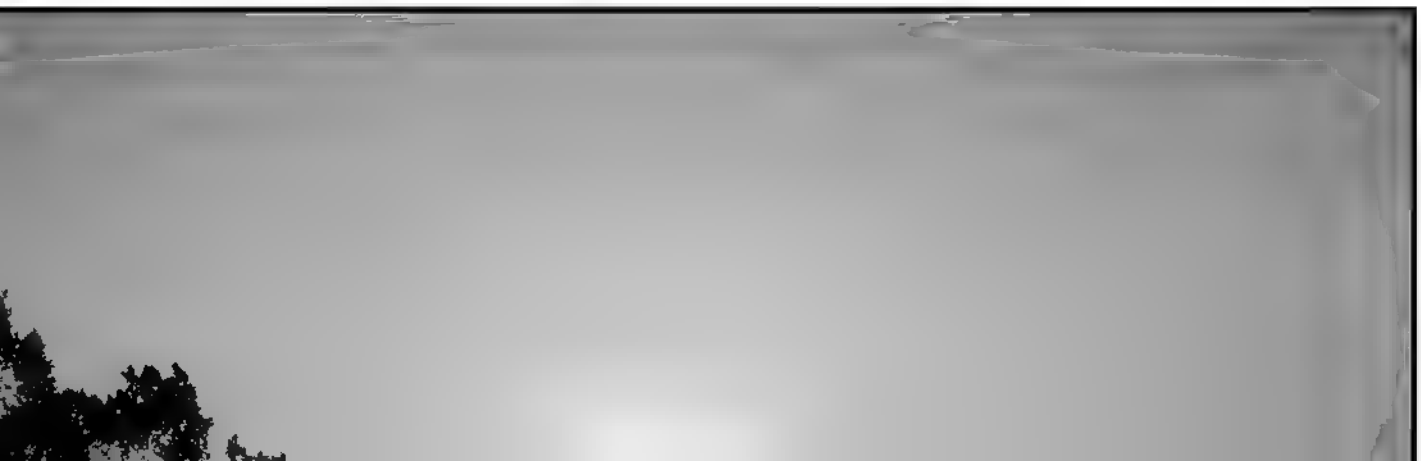
WE WILL STAGE THE FINAL BATTLE...
...BEFORE THE EYES OF HANZO HATTORI.
.....
I HEARD TELL THAT GENNOSUKE'S EYES HAVE BEEN SEALED SHUT.
IF HE HAS ALSO BEEN POISONED...
...THEN HE SHOULD BE NO MATCH FOR OBORO'S ENCHANTED VISION.
SOON, VICTORY WILL BE OURS.
BUT WE MUST PROVE THAT WE HAVE NOT INFLUENCED THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE... WE MUST HAVE...
...HANZO HATTORI BEAR WITNESS TO THE END OF THE KOUGA CLAN...
HOW ABOUT THAT, OBORO?

DO YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS?
A DUEL BEFORE HANZO-DONO...

NO.
I HAVE...NO OBJECTIONS.


STEP

KYOUHACHIROU
HATTORI



FLAP

WEST OF SUNPU CASTLE

ALONGSIDE THE ABE RIVER

KEICHO ERA
YEAR 19
MAY 7TH

EVENING

HANZO HATTORI

……

N COMBATANTS
F THE CLAN
OGEN
OBORO
MARU
ZUKI
MAYO
UMA
MINO
ARUBI
USHIJI
THE TEN CO BATANT
OF TH A CLAN
GE
SHO
KO
END OF KILL NUMBER 33

GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI
KOUGA
DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHO
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI

IGA
OBORO

THE FINAL KILL

[1 VS 1]

THE TEN COMMANDANTS OF THE GA CLAN
OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
ZENZENYAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU
THE TEN COMMANDANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN
DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JINUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI
IEYASU
TOKUGAWA
.....

IT WAS PURE COINCIDENCE...

I WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE PLAYED ABSOLUTELY NO PART IN THE OUTCOME OF THIS BATTLE.
.....

...THAT BROUGHT US HERE TO WITNESS THE END OF THE BATTLE. WE WERE ON OUR WAY TO ISE.

I WANTED YOU TO BE HERE TO SEE THIS DUEL WITH YOUR OWN EYES...
...SO THAT IEYASU SHOGUN WILL KNOW THAT YOU WITNESSED THE FINAL OUTCOME.
UNDER-STOOD.

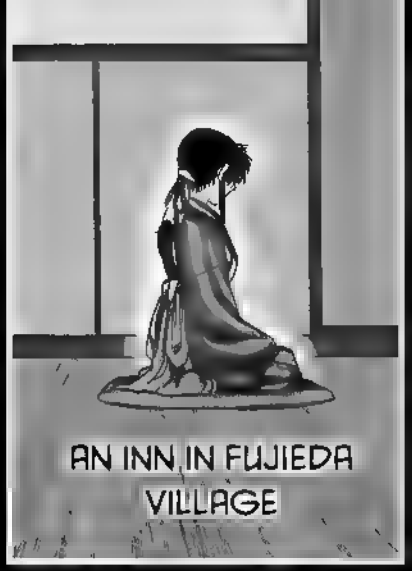
YOUR PERSISTENT CLAIMS OF INNOCENCE...
...ONLY MAKE YOU APPEAR EVEN MORE SUSPICIOUS.
OFUKU-DONO.

IT SEEMS THAT THE LAST REMAINING KOUGA NINJA HAS HAD HIS EYES SEALED, AND BEEN WOUNDED IN THE ARM BY ONE OF HIS RIVALS.
I SUPPOSE THAT SORT OF THING IS TO BE EXPECTED IN ANY NINJA BATTLE. NO?

.....

.....

STEP


AN INN IN FUJIEDA VILLAGE

KEICHO ERA
YEAR 19
MAY 7TH
EARLY MORNING

WHO ARE YOU?

I AM KYOUHACHIROU, ELDEST SON OF MASANARI, THE SECOND GENERATION HANZO HATTORI.
BUT NOW I HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN BY MASAHIRO, THE CURRENT, FOURTH GENERATION HANZO HATTORI.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU REMEMBER, BUT...
WE MET ONCE BEFORE.

KYOUHACHIROU-HATTORI-SAMA?

IT WAS 10 YEARS AGO.
MY FATHER TOOK ME ALONG ON A VISIT TO THE IGA AND KOUGA CLANS.
THERE I MET YOU...
...AND A YOUNG GENNOSUKE KOUGA.

IT WAS MY FAMILY THAT CAUSED THIS BLOODY BATTLE THAT HAS DESTROYED YOUR CLAN.
YOU MUST DESPISE ME.

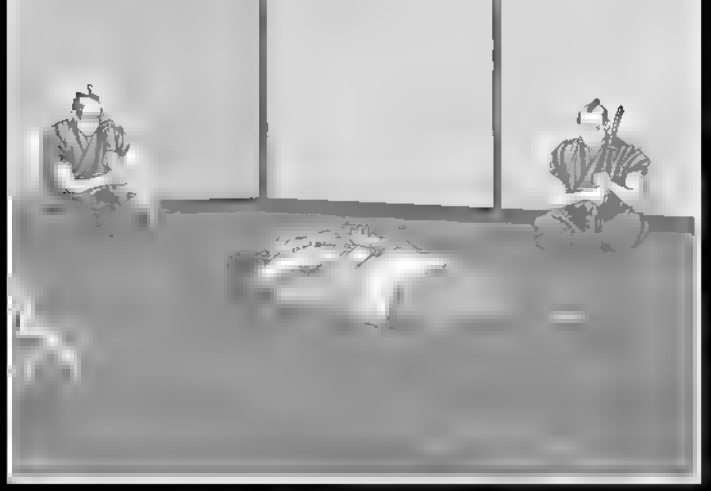
.....

NO...I ASK NOTHING...
...OF YOU.

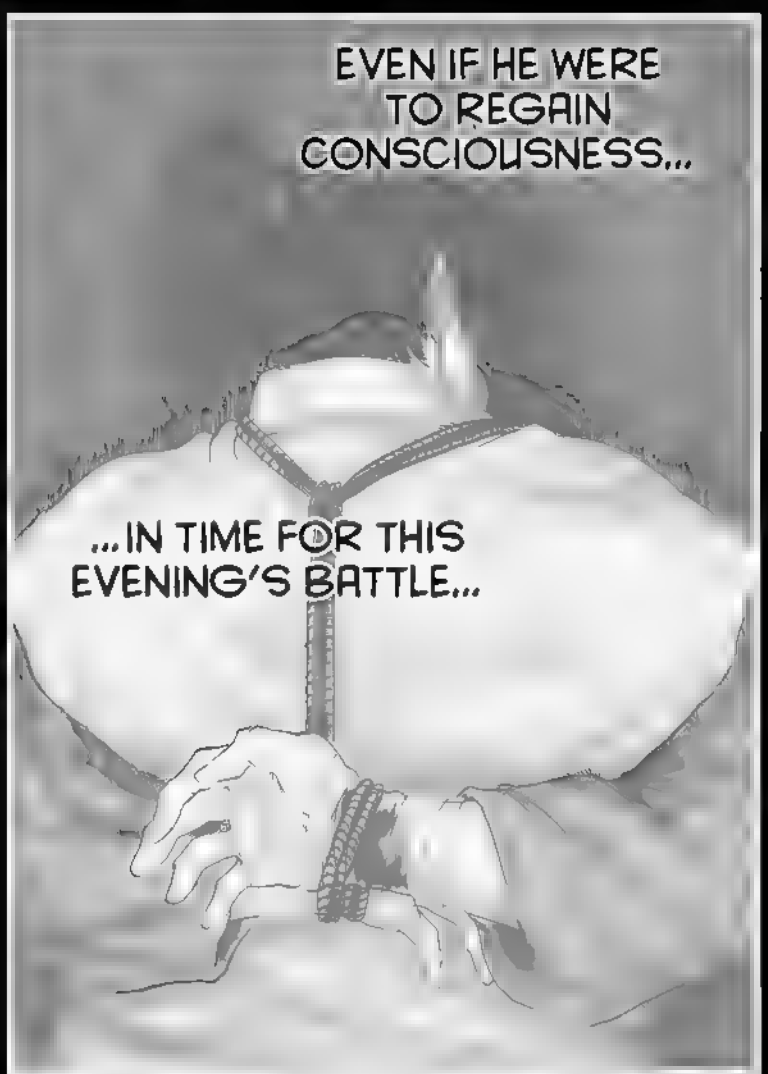
IS THERE ANY-THING...I CAN DO FOR YOU?
I KNOW IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE THINGS, BUT...

I SEE.

BUT WHAT OF...
..GENNOSUKE'S CONDITION?

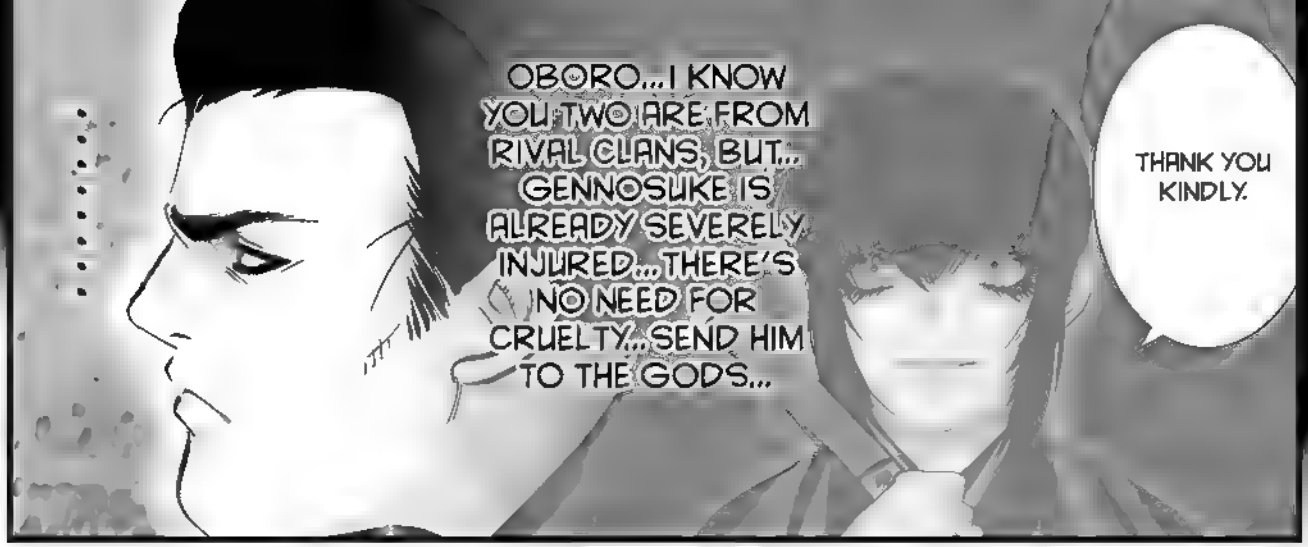


...IT WOULD BE A MIRACLE IF HE COULD EVEN STAND.


EVEN IF HE WERE TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS...
...IN TIME FOR THIS EVENING'S BATTLE...

WELL THEN... TAKE THIS.
IT'S NOT FROM A FAMOUS SWORD-SMITH, BUT IT IS WELL CRAFTED.

WHERE IS YOUR SWORD?
I HAVE NONE.


OBORO...I KNOW YOU TWO ARE FROM RIVAL CLANS, BUT... GENNOSUKE IS ALREADY SEVERELY INJURED...THERE'S NO NEED FOR CRUELTY...SEND HIM TO THE GODS...
THANK YOU KINDLY.

...WITH A SINGLE SWING OF YOUR BLADE.

OBORO!
SHUDDER
SHUDDER
STEP
SHIVER
STEP

?

GENNOSUKE-SAMA.

I LOVE YOU.

SHWICK

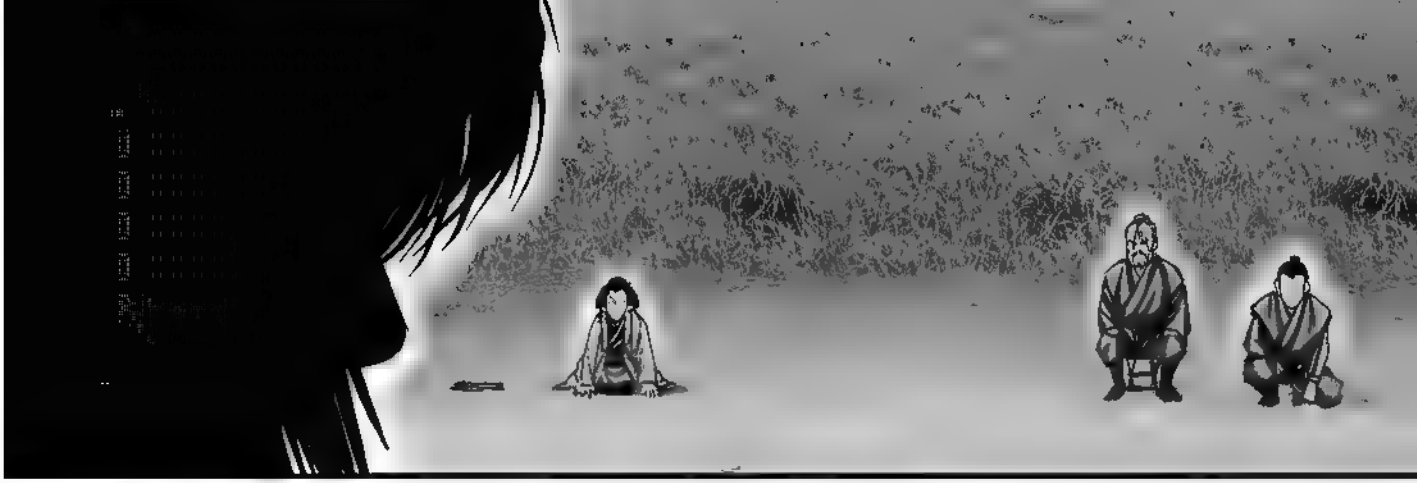
THUD
ドサッ

KILL GENNOSUKE!
KILL HIM!
GENNOSUKE!
KYAAAA!
あああああ
!
!
AAHHH!
KILL HIM!
FOOL.
FWOOSH
FWOOSH
HYAA!

SQUIRT

SLICE

THWISH



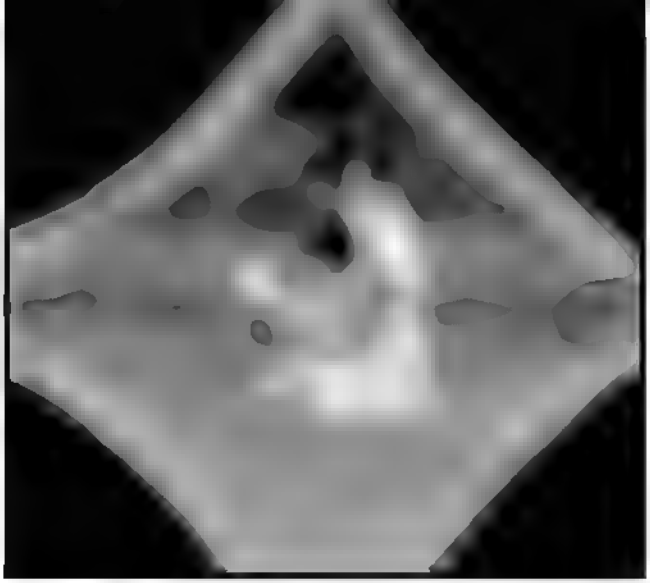
AHH...
AHH...
AHH...

.....
WHAT A WRETCHED SIGHT...

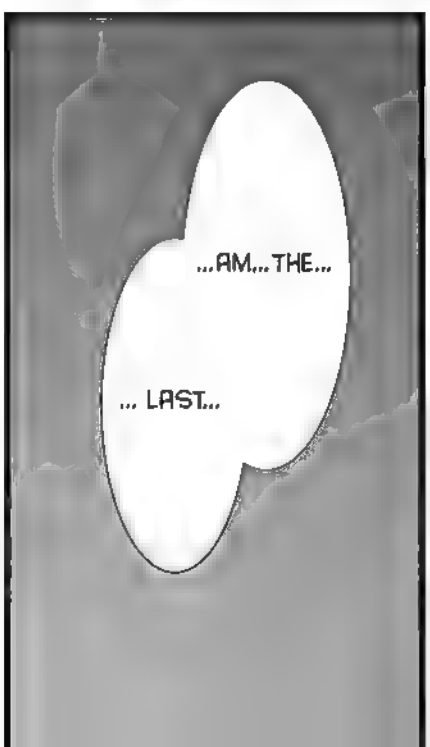
.....
STEP
NO...
SWIP
.....

OBORO...

WERE...
...THOSE TWO...
FATHER...
SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.
APRIL, KEICHO YEAR 19
SWIP
IEYASU
TOKUGA
SWIP
?



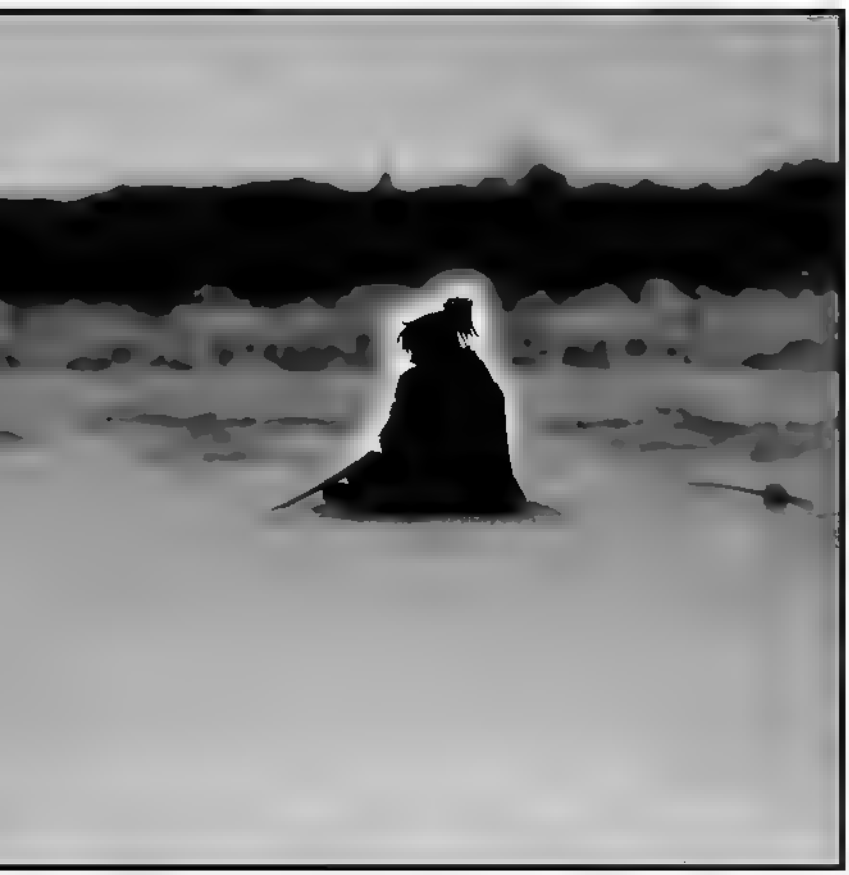
CAN YOU READ THE MOVEMENTS OF HIS FINGERS, KYOUHACHIROU?
...WRITING SOME-THING ON THE BATTLE SCROLL.
FATHER, GENNOSUKE IS...
I WILL TRY, FATHER.


...AM...THE...
... LAST...

.....

...I ...
...I, OBO...
I, OBORO OF IGA...

... BETWEEN THE IGA AND THE KOUGA.
...SURVIVING NINJA IN THE BATTLE ...



WHAT?

SO... THOSE TWO WERE...
FATHER...
.....

THAT'S T...
...IT'S OVER.
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
GLANCE
...SO THAT SHE MAY SUFFER IN HER OWN FIERY HELL.
I'LL KEEP THE RESULTS FROM HER FOR NOW...
THAT FOUL WOMAN MUST HAVE MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.
AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT... THE BATTLE IS DECIDED IN FAVOR OF THE IGA CLAN AND TAKECHIYO.
...IT'S OVER...
SHWICK
FLAP

?
VICTORY BELONGS TO THE IGA CLAN...
TAKE THE SCROLL TO SUNPU.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

I, OBORO, OF IGA, AM THE LAST SURVIVING NINJA IN THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE IGA AND THE KOUGA

THIS CONTRACT HEREBY NULLIFIES THE TRUCE PUT INTO EFFECT BY HANZO HATTORI. THE TEN KOUGA NINJA AND THE TEN IGA NINJA NAMED ON THIS SCROLL WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE SURVIVORS MUST DELIVER THIS SCROLL TO THE SUNPU CASTLE ON THE LAST DAY OF MAY, UPON WHICH THE SURVIVING CLAN SHALL RULE FOR 1000 YEARS.

APRIL, KEICHO YEAR 19

IEYASU TOKUGAWA

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE IGA CLAN

OGEN
OBORO
YASHAMARU
ROUSAI AZUKI
JINGOROU AMAYO
KOSHIROU CHIKUMA
NENKI MINO
HOTARUBI
TENZEN YAKUSHIJI
AKEGINU

THE TEN COMBATANTS OF THE KOUGA CLAN

DANJOU KOUGA
GENNOSUKE KOUGA
JUUBEI JIMUSHI
SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI
GYOUBU KASUMI
JOUSUKE UDONO
SAEMON KISARAGI
HYOUMA MUROGA
KAGEROU
OKOI

SPLASH
ピシャッ
SPLASH
ピシャッ

.....

SCHWICK

KEICHO ERA YEAR 19 (1614)
OCTOBER—THE WINTER BATTLE OF OSAKA
GENNA ERA
YEAR ONE (1615)
APRIL—
THE SUMMER
BATTLE OF
OSAKA
THE END OF
THE TOYOTOMI
FAMILY

GENNA ERA YEAR TWO (1616)

APRIL—THE DEATH OF IEYASU TOKUGAWA

GENNA ERA YEAR NINE (1623)

JULY—IEMITSU TOKUGAWA (FORMERLY KNOWN AS TAKECHIYO) BECOMES THE THIRD TOKUGAWA SHOGUN.

Basilisk

THE KOUGA NINJA SCROLLS

The End

THE TEN NINJA OF THE KOUGA MANJIDANI CLAN

SHOUGEN KAZAMACHI

- A SPIDERMAN
- SPITS GLUE

DANJOU KOUGA

- LEADER OF THE KOUGA CLAN
- A TYPICAL OLD MAN
- USES POISONOUS DARTS

JYUUBEI JIMUSHI

- MASTER OF SHURIKEN
- HOLD'S A SPEAR IN HIS THROAT

FORTUNETELLER

GYOUBU KASUMI

- A CHAMELEON
- HE LOOKS LIKE A DANGEROUS MAN... AND HE IS ONE

GENNOSUKE KOUGA

- HAS ENCHANTED VISION
- AN IDEALIST
- NEVER GIVES UP

HYOUMA MUROGA

- BLIND FROM BIRTH
- TAUGHT GENNOSUKE TO USE HIS ENCHANTED VISION
- HAS EXCELLENT HEARING

KAGEROU

- FROM A GOOD FAMILY JUST LIKE GENNOSUKE
- HER BREATH BECOMES POISONOUS WHEN SHE'S AROUSED
- EVEN HER NETHER REGIONS MIGHT BE POISONOUS

POOR THING...

SAEMON KISARAGI

- CAN TRANSFORM INTO ANYONE. HIS HAIR EVEN GETS LONGER (OR SHORTER)
- HIS HEIGHT CAN CHANGE BETWEEN 10 AND 20 CENTIMETERS

CAN'T GROW OUT HIS NOSE HAIRS.

JOUSUKE UDONO

- A BIG BALL OF FLESH
- A REAL PERVERT

POOR THING

OKOI

- SAEMON KISARAGI'S SISTER
- TALL WITH NICE SKIN. SHE IS A BLOOD SUCKER.

THE TEN NINJA OF THE IGA TSUBAGAKURE CLAN

ROUSAI AZUKI

- HAS A WHITE BEARD
- HAS NO JOINTS
- A BALD OLD MAN

OGEN

- WAS ONCE BEAUTIFUL
- A TYPICAL OLD WOMAN
- HEAD OF THE IGA TSUBAGAKURE CLAN

TENZEN YAKUSHIJI

- IMMORTAL
- HIS TWIN BROTHER EXISTS WITHIN HIM

HE APPEARS AS A SMALL WART-LIKE FACE

OBORO OF IGA

- A KLUTZ
- A REAL KLUTZ
- A SUPER DUPER KLUTZ
- HAS ENCHANTED VISION

JINGOROU AMAYO

SLUG

NENKI MINO

- NOSE HAIR
- MASTER STICK FIGHTER

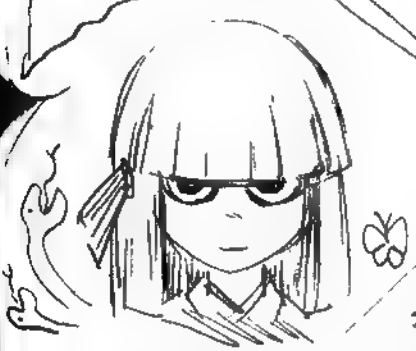
CONTROLS HIS NOSE HAIRS

KOSHIROU CHIKUMA

- FOLLOWS AFTER TENZEN
- MASTER OF ENCHANTED BREATH

HYUUUUUUU

A VIRGIN



HOTARUBI

- MASTER OF INSECTS
- AND YASHAMARU?
- ECCENTRIC

HOTARUBI

YASHAMARU

YASHAMARU

- A LITTLE KID
- IS HE A BISHONEN?

AKEGINU

KOSHIROU

BLOODY
BLOODY
BLOODY

about the authors

FŪTARO YAMADA

Born in 1922 in Hyogo Prefecture, Fūtaro Yamada made his debut as a novelist while still a student at Tokyo Medical University. Yamada was known for his mystery novels such as *Ganchuu No Akuma*. Later, his Ninja Scrolls series became wildly popular. He penned a wide body of literature, including the period piece *Makaitensei*, as well as several collections of essays such as *Ato Senkai No Banmeshi* and *Ningen Rinjyuu Zukan.* He passed away on July 28, 2001.

MASAKI SEGAWA

Masaki Segawa made his debut in 1997 with the series Senma Monogatari, which ran in the weekly comic *Morning.* In 1998, he began his long-running *Uppers* magazine series Onigiri Jyuuzou, which ended in the year 2000. This is his second long-running series, and his first adaptation. He loves cats and watermelon.
He currently resides in Funabashi.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

KAGEROU, PAGE 88

Kagerou's name means "heat haze." It's used to describe the illusion of air shimmering above hot asphalt or pavement on a hot summer's day. "Kagerou," when written with different kanji, can also mean mayfly. A mayfly is a type of fly with a very short life span. Here Tenzen uses a common saying *"tonde hi ni iru natsu no mushi,"* meaning "like an insect drawn to fire," but he replaces the word *"mushi"* (insect) with *"kagerou"* (mayfly).

TOYOTOMI FAMILY, PAGE 267

The Toyotomi family rose to power in the late sixteenth century and ruled the Osaka area. The Tokugawa family and the Toyotomi family first went to war in 1600 at the battle of Sekigahara. Toyotomi was defeated but remained in power. In 1615, Ieyasu Tokugawa's troops attacked Osaka Castle and conquered the Toyotomi family once and for all. Power became centralized in Tokyo, and the Tokugawa shogun ruled over the nation. This began the 253-year era known as the Edo (Tokyo) Period.

TOKUGAWA SHOGUNS, PAGE 269

Ieyasu Tokugawa's descendents continued to rule Japan as shogun until the year 1868, when power was handed over to the Imperial family. In total, there were fifteen Tokugawa shoguns.

Preview of *The Kouga Ninja Scrolls*

Now that you're finished with Basilisk, keep reading about the world of Iga and Kouga with *The Kouga Ninja Scrolls*! Futaro Yamada's original novel is the whole story: the basis of the manga series you hold in your hands, the anime series from FUNimation, and the 2005 Japanese film *Shinobi: Heart Under Blade*! It features the full historical backdrop of the epic battle, more insight into the complex characters, the starred-crossed romance, and your favorite ninjas with strange, otherworldly skills. On sale now! Here's a preview!

Jousuke, although also able to swell out and constrict himself, stared at the strange creature for a long time before recognizing it. "Amayo," he finally grumbled.

The sluglike beast that Oboro had caused to fall from the ceiling was still a drenched, melted mixture of flesh and skin, covered in a sticky substance. Neither hands nor legs were visible, much less a face. Jousuke could barely recognize it as Amayo Jingorou's body. Earlier, Amayo had looked like a drowned man with skin that was both swollen and shriveled and covered in wrinkles. But now Amayo was the size of an infant.

"What—what happened to you?" Jousuke had barely asked the question when he froze and stared at Gennosuke's nearby room.

"Hey, Amayo! Did you...adopt this shape to go to Gennosuke..."

"Wa...water...please..." Jingorou moaned as faint as the murmur of an insect.

"Did you intend to kill Gennosuke, Jingorou?"

"Water..."

"I understand your hatred of the opposing clan. But I don't understand why now—Kouga and Iga are finally at peace! Why attack now?" Jousuke shook Jingorou in his hand. "Another thing: Azuki Rousai, Mino Nenki, Hotarubi, and especially Yakushiji Tenzen—who should definitely have been at the banquet last night—where did they all go?"

"Wa..."

"Answer me and I will give you water," Jousuke said forcefully. "Now speak!"

"They went to Tokaido Road...to kill Kazamachi Shougen..."

"What?" Udono Jousuke was stunned. He did not even know that Shougen was returning on the Tokaido Road. "What happened? Hunh, so that hawk carrying the scroll back from Sunpu—it must have been something important. What did that scroll say?"

"....." Jingorou's lips resembled wilted leaves. They fluttered, but no sound emerged. He wanted to speak. His desire for water made him

ready to do anything—the pain he suffered was hundreds of times worse than the agony of a burn victim lacking anesthetic.

Tucking Jingorou's body under his arm like an empty sack, Jousuke stood.

He looked over at Gennosuke's room. He thought about running to Gennosuke and telling him about Amayo Jingorou's confession. But Jousuke remembered that when he had gotten his hands on the scroll, Gennosuke ordered him to hand it over to Iga and didn't even let him look at it. *So I'm not going to tell him yet,* Jousuke decided in a fit of pique against his young master. Rather than immediately informing Gennosuke, he would first pry more information from this creature—and shock Gennosuke with it. A reasonable plan, he thought.

"You want water?" Jousuke asked.

The thing nodded. Jousuke walked with it toward the high-pitched sound of rushing water.

A black-painted wall ringed with spikes surrounded Ogen's mansion on three sides. On the side facing the mountain, the earthen wall had been replaced with boulders. But it would be impossible to slip through this area. A waterfall came rushing down from the sky fifteen feet overhead. It had scooped a crater out of the rocks below—a tremendous waterfall pool.

"There's water right there," Jousuke shouted, hurling Amayo Jingorou onto a boulder. "Tell me about the scroll."